Typhoon 'Egay' kills 10, heads for Taiwan today

Story below, COL. 4

Asean tells Burma to release Suu Kyi

PHNOM PENH—In an unprecedented move, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations yesterday formally asked the military government of Burma (Myanmar) to free pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The reference to Burma and Suu Kyi in an Asean joint statement is unprecedented given the group's policy of noninterference in each other's affairs. It was

ASEAN/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Hurting Church to pray for 'biased' media

THE CHURCH is hurting from "biased" reports of the sex scandal involving Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani and will work to strengthen its "media apostolate," the spiritual director of charismatic communities in the Archdiocese of Manila said yesterday.

Fr. Anton Pascual said the Church had noted the media's "systematic, if not un-

HURTING/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, June 18, 2003 ★★ 62 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 190 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Target: 62 drug rings

3-month plan funded by ₱1-B lotto income

By Christian V. Esguerra, Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

ALARMED by the worsening drug problem, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday vowed to neutralize 62 drug syndicates and to dismantle at least 50 marijuana plantations nationwide in just three months.

The three-month anti-drug plan will be funded by P1 billion in government income from its lotto operations, according to Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

The PDEA said it would also dismantle laboratories for methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "ice" or shabu and intercept shipments of chemicals and other ingredients used in the manufacture of illegal substances.

"We're determined to attack the problem of illegal drugs. We'll show convincing results in three months," Lina, head of the Dangerous Drugs Board, said at a press conference at the PDEA headquarters in Camp Crame.

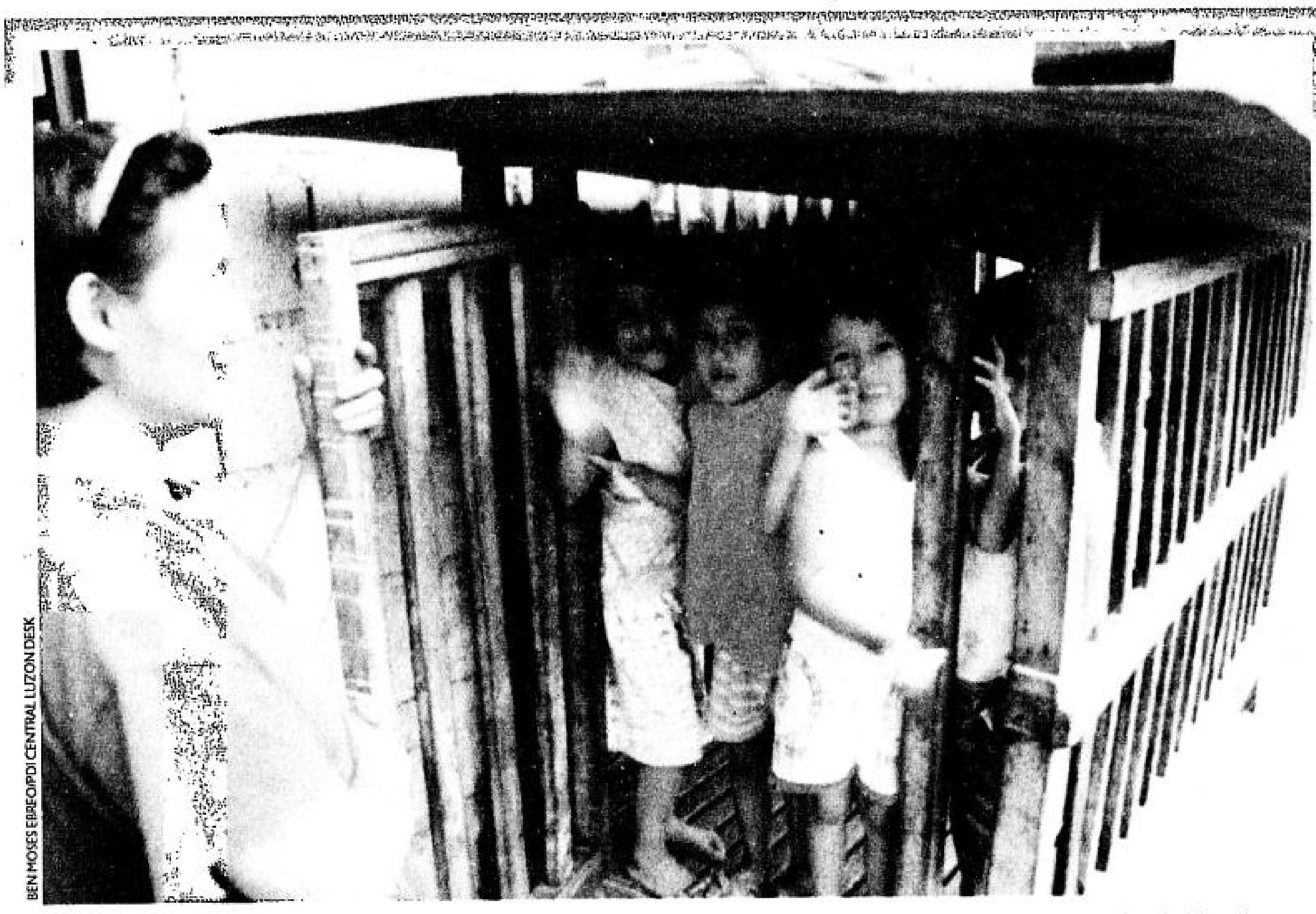
The other day, the PDEA said there were 3.4 million drug users in the country, up from only 20,000 in 1972, but other groups said the figure was much bigger. *(See story below.)* The most popular illegal drug is shabu.

There are at least 13 transnational drug syndicates and 175 local drug syndicates operating in the country, while there are 45,000 pushers in the streets, according to PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr.

Sen. Robert Barbers said the PNP and the PDEA were not doing enough to neutralize transnational drug syndicates in the country.

"Eleven transnational drug

TARGET/ A19



BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

CAGED innocents, 4-year-old quadruplets Tingting, Wengweng, Jingjing and Kringkring Cerezo, are kept out of school and of harm's way by their mother Elizabeth, a widow, to allow her to tend her mini-store, the family's only source of income.

Quadruplets spend time in cage, not in school

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—Watching in awe as school children pass by their house, 4-year-old quadruplets Mary Joyce (Tingting), Mary Jane (Wengweng), Mary Rose (Jingjing) and Mary Grace (Kringkring) Cerezo have to accept their mother's decision not to send them to school due to poverty.

Their mother, Elizabeth Cerezo, 39, just look on as the girls cry pleading to go to school.

Cerezo, a widow, said she was forced to keep her children in a locked 1 meter-by-2 meter wooden cage so she could tend their mini-store and raise money for their food.

She said she could not afford to send her children to

QUADRUPLETS/ A21

WET AND WILD

Cavorting tiger cubs Maui and Aubrey (named after the movies' sex sirens) paw their way through the rising waters dumped by typhoon "Egay" on Tuesday in the Malabon Zoo. JOAN BONDOC

New Estrada lawyer drops new bombshell

Erap loyalists picket Davide home

By Armand N. Nocum

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada's controversial new lawyer dropped a new bombshell yesterday: If the Sandiganbayan denies his motion to dismiss the historic plunder case against Estrada, his client will no longer present evidence in his defense before the anti-graft court.

The news about the possible legal maneuver coincided with apparently synchronized pickets of the houses and offices of Supreme Court justices by Estrada loyalists.

"Let the court decide on the prosecution's defense," counsel Allan Paguia told reporters. He said the Estrada defense lawyers were merely being consistent with their stand that the courts have no jurisdiction over Estrada, who they maintain is still President and therefore immune from suit.

The move risks Estrada's conviction, based on the evidence presented by the prosecution alone. Asked what would happen if the defense opted not to present evidence, Paguia said: "Decision of the Estrada cases will happen this year."

Paguia's latest statement came a

NEW ESTRADA/ A21

9M, not 3.4M, using drugs, claims Cebu solon

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Michael Lim Ubac

THE OFFICIAL count is just the tip of the "ice."

The number of drug users in the country is much bigger than the 3.4 million official count of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), according to the chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco said about 9 million Filipinos were using prohibited drugs, usually methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "ice" or *shabu*.

Cuenco said the figure, based on data from informants of government intelligence agencies and from private sources, was equivalent to 11 percent of the country's population.

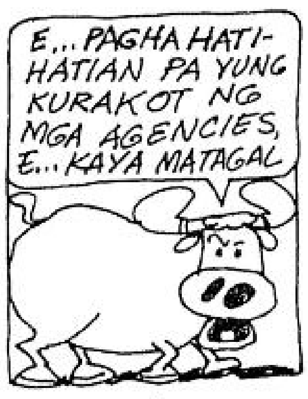
Among workers, drug use is about 15 percent, according to the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

TUCP General Secretary Ernesto Herrera said studies conducted by the TUCP found that half of the drug users in the workplace were young workers.

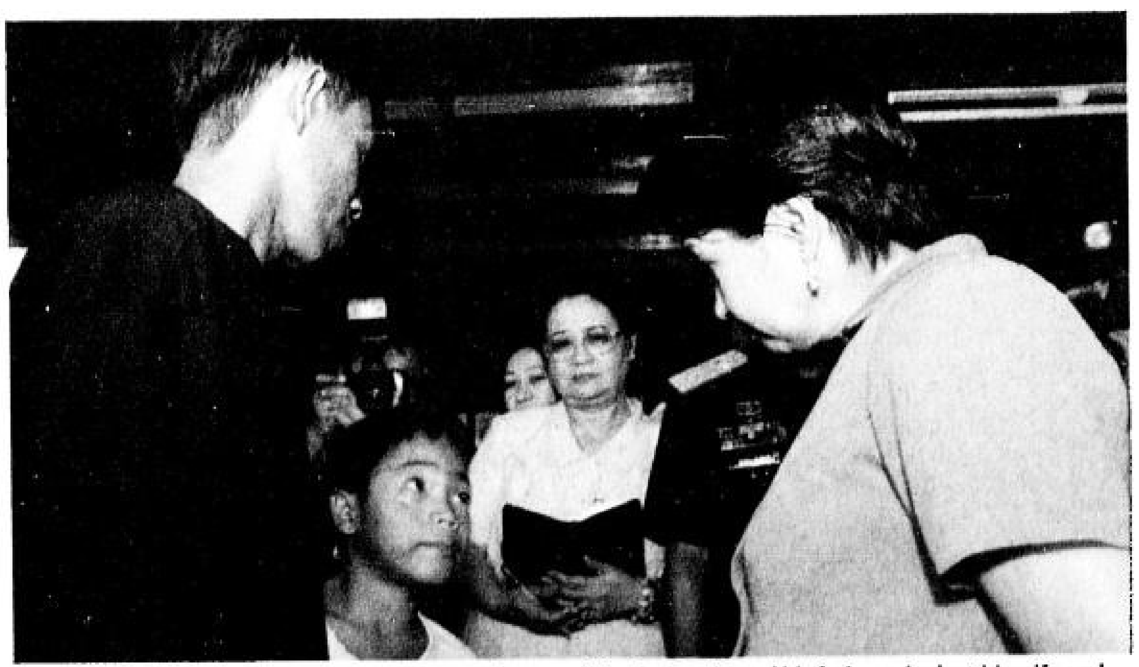
PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. said the exact number of drug dependents in the country could not be easily ascertained.

"It can't be quantified," said Avenido who explained that the 3.4 million his agency cited was based on the number of drug users who had volunteered to be rehabilitated or had been arrested for drug-related charges.

9M, NOT 3.4M/ A19



E... PAGHA HATI-HATIAN PA YUNG KURAKOT NG MGA AGENCIES, E... KAYA MATAGAL



SMALL comfort; big loss. President Macapagal meets Marvin Conde and his father who lost his wife and younger son in the rising river waters in Barangay Canlapwas in Catbalogan, Samar. MALACANANG PHOTO

10 DEAD

'Egay' intensifies into a typhoon

By the PDI News Bureaus

THE OFFICIAL death toll from "Egay" is now 10, at least four of them children, the Office of Civil Defense said yesterday.

After causing extensive flooding in low-lying areas including Metro Manila and displacing about 300 people, the storm with the international name Soudelor intensified into a typhoon and was expected to pass close to Taiwan today.

The death toll moved President Macapagal-Arroyo to tell officials in Calbayog City that while typhoons and other calamities could not be prevented, the target should be "zero casualty."

In Naga City, where the heavy rains caused the closure of schools and shops until Monday, officials said the body of 9-year-old Jerby Amaranto was fished out of a creek of the Bicol River yesterday. The child, of Dona

'EGAY'/ A21

2 ½ hours in Thailand, 2 years in RP

By Volt Contreras

MAYBE we just like to take our time? In Thailand, it takes "two and a half hours" to register a title of land transfer. In the Philippines, it takes almost two years. And that's without relying on "fixers."

One result: The government has lost an estimated P100 billion in potential revenues in the last decade of the 20th century, because

2 ½ HOURS/ A20

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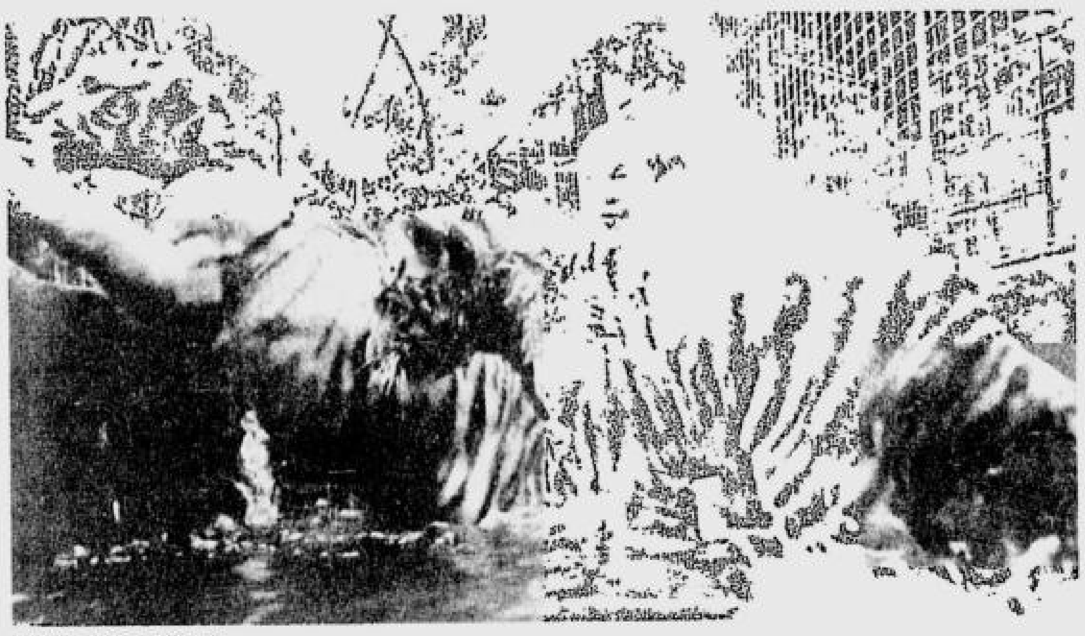

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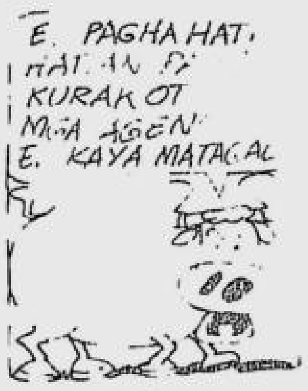

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes will be stormy. The rest of Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds. The rest of Western Luzon and Western Visayas will have occasional rains. The rest of Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rains and thunderstorms, the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/06/28/02

Metro Manila	Monsoon rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Occasional rains
Baguio	Monsoon rains	Roxas	Occasional rains
Tuguegarao	Rains and winds	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Rains and winds	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Monsoon rains	Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy
Tagaytay	Monsoon rains	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Calapan	Occasional rains	Davao	Partly cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

$120M TO PAY DEBTS

Cash-strapped MWSS to tap Maynilad bond

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System said it will tap into the $120 million performance bond of the Maynilad Water Services to pay for its maturing obligations to creditor-banks.

The MWSS said it has informed Maynilad's 14 banks that it would be acquiring some $98.9 million from the firm's performance bond.

The state water services regulator faces the prospect of paying nearly P15 billion in maturing debts after Maynilad, a joint venture between the Lopez Group and the French-based Ondeo Phil. (formerly Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux), filed for an early termination of its concession agreement with the MWSS and stopped paying the concession fees.

Under the terms of the concession agreement, Maynilad assumed, through payment of the concession fees, the MWSS's loans from multilateral lenders Asian Development Bank and World Bank amounting to $800 million.

Since it filed for the agreement's termination, however, Maynilad has through a series of court injunctions stopped the MWSS from using the performance bond to pay its concession obligations.

According to the terms of the concession, the MWSS is allowed to tap into the bond if Maynilad fails to fulfill its obligations such as paying the concession fees.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said in an interview that the MWSS has informed Maynilad's banks that include Citibank N.A., Credit Lyonnaise, Chase Mahattan, Chinatrust Banking Corp. and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. that it would draw from the performance bond.

Cruz said the MWSS also has obtained approval from the International Arbitration Panel which is in the process of reviewing Maynilad's termination petition.

The arbitration panel even issued a directive last May that Maynilad should increase its performance bond by $30 million by June 15, she said.

Cruz said the MWSS had been informed by Maynilad about its intention to renew its performance bond but that the firm's documents were not in order.

"Only its agent bank, Citicorp Financial, informed us regarding its performance bond renewal. But we are dealing with Maynilad, not Citicorp," she said.

In an interview, the MWSS acting finance chief Estrellito Polloso said the MWSS would need P10 billion in borrowings to settle Maynilad's concession fee obligations this year.

The P3.3 billion will cover concession fee obligations to the ADB and World Bank for the entire year while the remaining P6.7 billion will be used to settle maturing bridge loans acquired last year from Deutsche Bank, Keppel Monte Bank, the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank.

The financially ailing Maynilad has refused to pay its concession obligations since March 2001 claiming to have cash flow problems.

The company claims that the MWSS did not give it support to maintain its financial viability for the past five years that it held the concession.

Itself cash-strapped, the MWSS has issued demand letters to Maynilad since December 2002 which have all been ignored.

VP seeks full disclosure of RP-US accord

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

GUINGONA

VICE President Teofisto Guingona yesterday called for a full public disclosure of a bilateral agreement with the United States giving US nationals here immunity from prosecution by the International Criminal Court.

He urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to make public the full text of the executive agreement concluded last month by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople and US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Human rights groups have warned that the agreement could be used to protect US troops who commit ordinary crimes in the Philippines or other areas under the jurisdiction of the ICC.

Apart from the Philippines, the US has signed so-called "Article 98" agreements exempting US citizens from ICC jurisdiction with several dozen other countries.

Ople earlier said the agreement covered the "mutual non-surrender of nationals, including military personnel and government officials to a third country or international tribunal."

Guingona had been insisting that the agreement should pass Senate scrutiny and the chamber can decide to ratify it or not.

"It would appear that the executive agreement, reportedly embodied in an exchange of diplomatic notes, touches upon the aspect of criminal jurisdiction, and as such this would not be a matter for the Executive Department alone to decide on," he said.

Guingona, who held the foreign affairs portfolio before resigning last year over foreign policy differences with the President, said he has yet to see a copy the agreement despite repeated requests to the DFA.

"It is regrettable that up to this date, our people have not been given a clear picture, much less a copy of the recent so-called executive agreement," Guingona said.

"The government should not give any ground for the people to doubt whether there is full disclosure of the necessary information for the public to be able to make a judgment," he said.

Guingona said he was also "saddened" by Malacañang's inclination not to ask the Senate to ratify the international treaty that created the ICC.

"We are surprised by the assertion that if the Philippines ratifies the ICC it would be easy for anyone to file harassment charges against military, police and civilian officials involved in the anti-insurgency campaign," he said.

He said the prospect of such harassment cases was "rather theoretical" as the prosecution mechanism laid down in the Rome Statute creating the ICC "does not lend itself to flimsy or whimsical charges."

"Our government, our police and military authorities have nothing to fear," he said. "We pride ourselves in being solidly committed to the protection of human rights and there is no reason for us to delay ratification of the ICC's creation simply because the communist and secessionist Moro rebellions remain unresolved."

The Vice President said he was willing to convene a dialogue between government officials and civil society groups on the issue of submitting the ICC treaty for Senate ratification.

Guingona's office noted that the Philippines was among the 139 original signatories to the 1998 Rome Statute that created the ICC.

It was also learned that jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada had actually signed an instrument of transmittal for endorsing the treaty for Senate ratification, but the move was overtaken by the second Edsa uprising that toppled Estrada from power.

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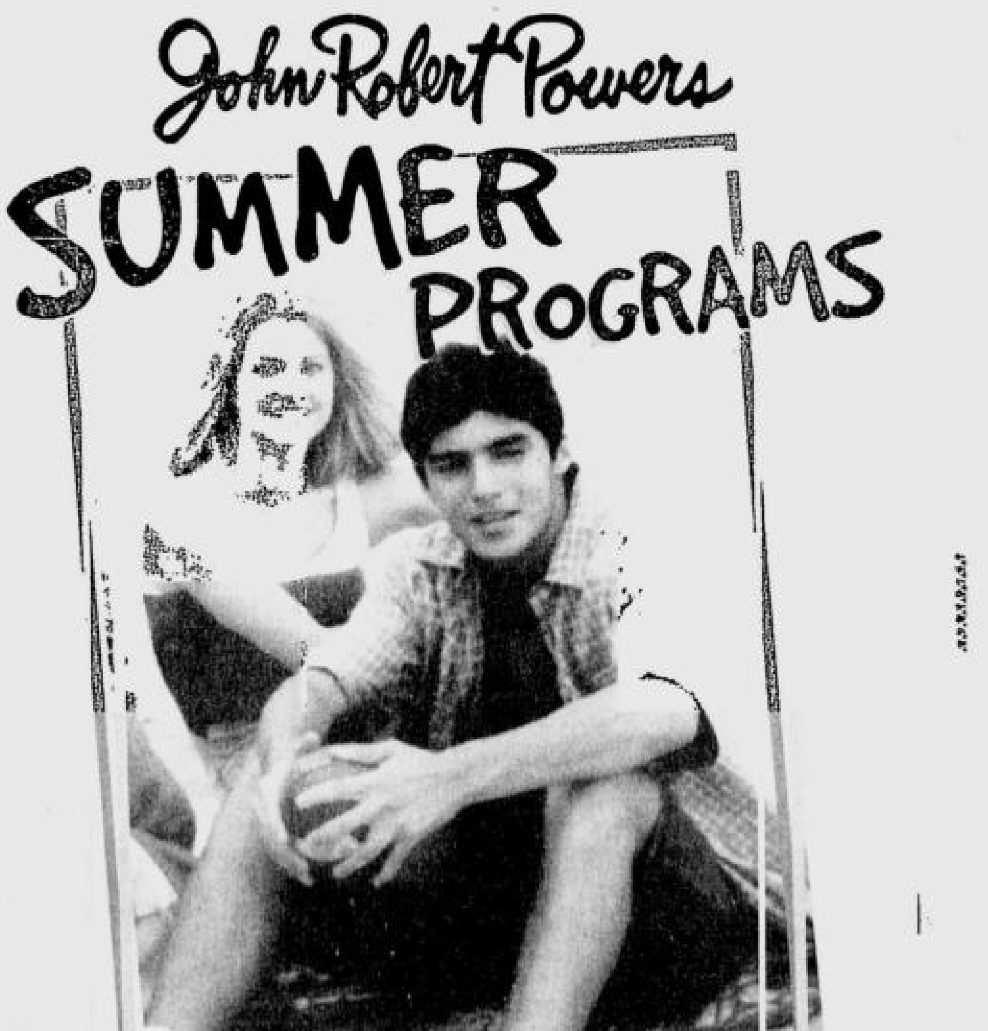

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Talk peace or be irrelevant, MILF told

"GET serious."

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told Muslim separatists to stop dillydallying about peace talks, or "slide into irrelevance."

In a statement, the President said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front risked being "left behind by the inexorable march of peace" because of its "temporizing gestures."

"There is a mounting clamor of the people and the world Islamic community for peace," she said. "The use of force to gain political ends is already passe."

The rebel MILF reiterated in a statement issued also yesterday that unless its conditions were met, its leader Salamat Hashim would not sit as chief negotiator, as demanded by Ms Macapagal, in the proposed resumption of talks.

The talks are being brokered by neighboring Malaysia, which has put pressure on the 12,500-member MILF to seek a negotiated settlement.

The MILF stayed out of a 1996 peace treaty signed by the government and a rival separatist faction, the Moro National Liberation Front, which settled for limited self-rule in a number of southern provinces.

At least on paper, the MILF has stuck to its original objective of setting up an Islamic state in Mindanao.

Malaysia, Indonesia and other southern neighbors are wary of Muslim separatism in the Philippines in the face of a violent campaign waged by Jemaah Islamiah, a militant Islamic movement, to set up a Southeast Asian caliphate that would include Mindanao.

The MILF statement quoted political officer Ghazali Jaafar as saying its Central Committee would decide who should be chief peace negotiator for the group.

Jaafar noted that the current authorized negotiators were led by the movement's second in command and overall guerrilla commander, Murad Ebrahim.

The MILF statement said Salamat would be "prepared to sit down in the peace negotiations as protocol warrants, especially during the conclusion of final peace agreement, if there will be any."

Ms Macapagal earlier rejected a token 10-day unilateral truce by the MILF, which it has since extended for another 10 days until next week.

She has vowed to keep up a military offensive in the south to root out what she described as "terrorist cells" being harbored by the group.

Salamat, Ebrahim, Jaafar and other top MILF leaders face arrest for alleged involvement in a series of deadly bombings in Mindanao in recent months.

Malacañang has turned down the rebels' demand that the arrest warrants be suspended before the talks could proceed.

But Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong yesterday hinted that Salamat's case might be negotiable.

"Arrangements can be made in order that all those who will be attending the peace process will be freed from the fear of being arrested," said Datumanong, former governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

He said the government was "not short on processes or procedures" to address the situation, specifying that "rules of court have outlined what to do" in such cases.

But he also clarified that the DOJ had not received any suggestions from the Palace to this effect.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the MILF should realize that sending Salamat to the talks as chief negotiator would be the quickest way to stop the fighting and spur development in Mindanao.

Ms Macapagal maintained that "social participation was the only acceptable model of change and transformation," and that this option was open to all rebel groups. "They must seize the moment or lose it forever." *Philip C. Tubeza, AFP*

Moro rebs vow to fight gov't attacks

COTABATO CITY—Irked by successive assaults on houses of ranking Moro Islamic Liberation Front officials and sustained punitive action against its members, the separatist group yesterday said it could only fight back.

"We have no other recourse, since the government seems not to respond to our call for a ceasefire," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

While the MILF remained passive, Kabalu said, government troops had been conducting raids since Sunday on suspected safehouses of rebel leaders in Maguindanao.

Ghazali Jaafar and Ebrahim Murad, MILF vice chairs for political and military affairs, were the targets of police-military raids in Crossing Simuay in Sultan Kudarat, and in Barangay Rosary Heights 5 here on Monday.

Jaafar and Ebrahim carry a P5 million bounty each, dead or alive.

Chief Insp. Roberto Badian of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, who led the raids, admitted the operations were unproductive.

MILF information chief Mohager Iqbal has warned of resumed fighting next week.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in South Central Mindanao, said the government was prepared for any MILF offensive.

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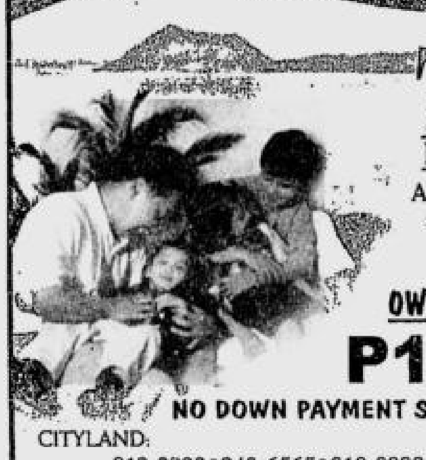

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MON.- FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

P175-M LRT machine overpriced, unnecessary, says solon

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) illegally purchased a P175-million railway grinding machine that was not only grossly overpriced but also totally unnecessary.

This was revealed yesterday by Rep. Augusto H. Baculio (Lakas, Misamis Oriental) who last week blew the whistle on irregularities at the LRTA allegedly involving P276 million additional but unnecessary expenditure to accelerate by 69 days the completion of the LRT2 Pasig to Cubao line.

Baculio said the LRTA purchased the railway grinding machine for $3.3 million or nearly P175 million, a gross overprice. He said the LRT2 line did not need any grinding for the next five to six years.

Even when the line finally needs grinding a few years from now, the LRTA won't need a new machine because it has an operational and newly refurbished one which is being used for the LRT 1. The same machine can be mobilized and used for the LRT Line 2 anytime, Baculio said.

Baculio explained that the LRT 2 line has brand new railway tracks that do not need any honing or refurbishing now. It will take at least five to six years of wear and tear before a grinding machine is needed to resurface its railway tracks.

"So why splurge on a huge capital expenditure amounting to nearly P175 million for unnecessary equipment? Why the rush to buy such equipment when the current term of the LRTA administrator expires next year and for a concern that is clearly for the future managers of the LRT 2 project to attend to? " Baculio said.

Baculio said the circumstances behind the grinding machine purchase are "so scandalous and outrageous" because:

1. There was no legal basis at all for the purchase since it was not a part of the LRT 2 contract. Baculio said using a variation order to cover the purchase of an overpriced new grinding machine "was a clever ruse to avoid seeking approval for a multimillion equipment purchase that would require the approval of the Department of Finance and JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) because it would have to be paid using foreign currency."

2. Only two bidding suppliers were considered, violating the "three-quotation" rule which is being used in the project. The two bidders were Speno with a bid of $9.3 million and Kempal with a bid of $3.3 million.

A third bidder, firm called Infratex, offered an arrangement which did not require the LRTA or the government to buy the equipment. Instead, the Infratex bid offered a service arrangement costing $1.9 million to be paid on accomplishment basis—per meter of railway grinding completed. The bid, however, was not considered, according to bidding documents.

"This railway grinding machine deal stinks to high heavens," Baculio said. He said the winning bid of Kempal was higher by around 35 to 40 percent versus the Infratex offer and prices for the same equipment from other sources, Baculio said.

In addition, Kempal was awarded the supply contract despite the fact that it was not the exclusive suppl\ier or representative in the country, Baculio alleged. This violated a long-established Commission on Audit regulation on equipment purchases by government to exclusive distributors only, Baculio said.

Documents, Baculio said, revealed that Kempal was not the local representative of the supplier Loram, an American firm. The local representative of Loram USA in the Philippines is Pan Pacific Rim Corp (PPRC).

Baculio said LRTA, should have directly dealt with Loram USA or PPRC. Instead, the deal was coursed though Kempal, a small local firm owned by a mayor from Camarines Norte.

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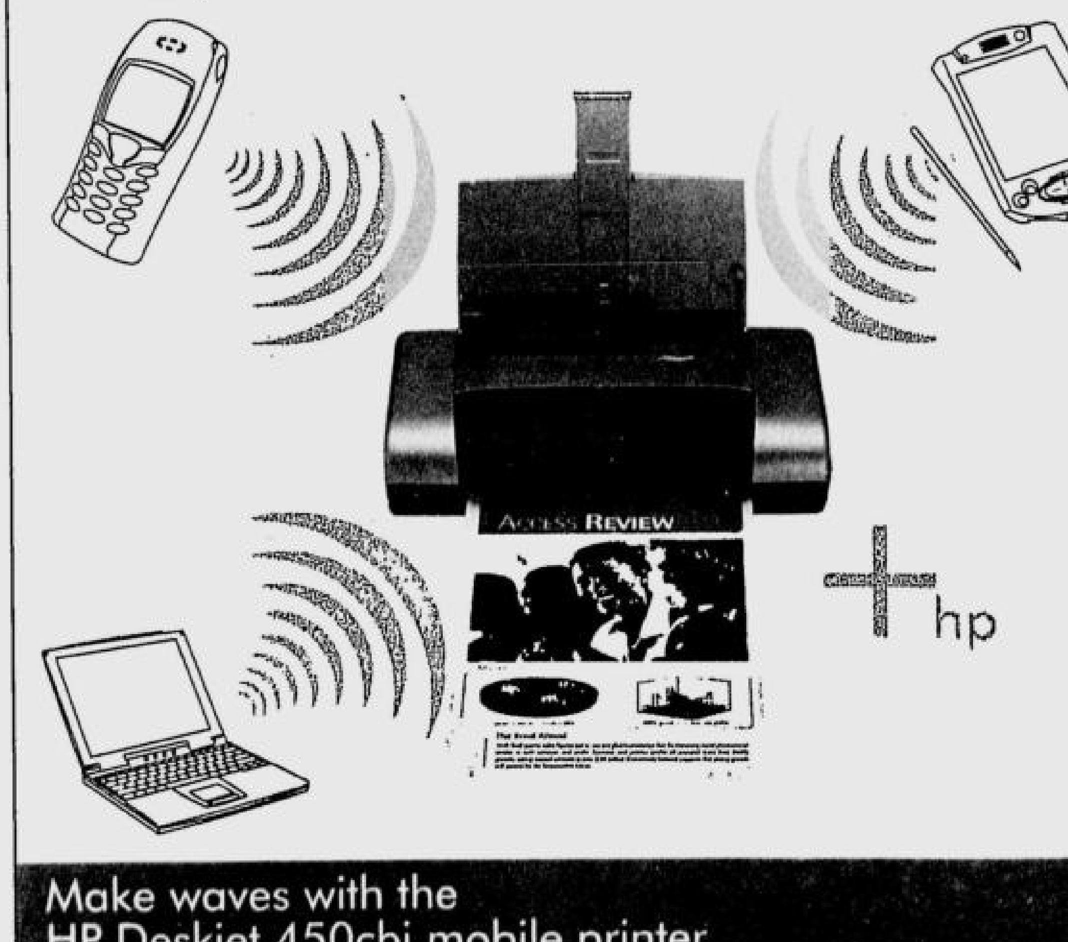

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Doy asks Sandigan to let him go to US

FORMER Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, who is facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan, has asked the anti-graft court to allow him to go to the United States for a medical check-up.

In a request for permission to travel that his lawyers filed before the Sandiganbayan yesterday, Laurel presented a certification from his physician, Dr. Rosalio P. Torres, indicating that he may have malignant cells in his bone marrow.

"There were clusters of abnormal cells which may be malignant cells," said Torres, a physician at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, citing a report on a biopsy of Laurel's bone marrow.

Torres said the 74-year-old Laurel developed high fever in late March and was diagnosed as suffering from typhoid fever. He was rushed to the Makati Medical Center where Torres also holds clinic.

On June 9, 2003, Laurel "felt dizzy and complained of chest pains" and again was rushed to the hospital. It was there that a blood examination "disclosed that his hemoglobin count (was) markedly low."

Laurel is scheduled to leave on June 23 for the Stanford University Hospital in California and will be back on July 15.

He was indicted last March in connection with the P9.6 billion "Expo scam" when he was chair of the National Centennial Commission.

He was accused of increasing the budget of the project from P248 million to P1.165 billion in 1998. *Armand N. Nocum*

DOJ chief defends Tinga nomination to high court

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Simeon Datumanong yesterday defended the Judicial and Bar Council's decision to nominate a well-connected politician to fill up a vacancy in the Supreme Court.

Datumanong said former Rep. Dante Tinga was a "qualified contender" for the SC seat that was left vacant by the retirement of Justice Vicente Mendoza in April.

Tinga obtained the highest number of votes when the JBC voted on Thursday on the candidates to recommend to Malacañang for the SC seat.

The JBC is a constitutionally created body that decides on who meets the qualifications for judicial appointees and makes recommendations to the President. It is under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

The other nominees who obtained the highest votes—ranked in descending order—were SC Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco, Dean Raul Pangalangan of the University of the Philippines College of Law, Sandiganbayan 4th Division chair Justice Gregory Ong and Court of Appeals Justice Ruben Reyes.

Ong and Reyes obtained the same number of votes.

Datumanong said that the JBC decided to nominate five, and not just the usual three, candidates for Malacañang to consider.

"All of these five will be sent to Malacañang as nominees. It's all up to the President to choose among them who will (fill) the vacancy that was created by the retirement of Justice Mendoza," Datumanong said.

The President can make her choice from any of the five nominees but she cannot choose anyone who is not on the list.

The JBC is chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. Its other members include Sen. Francis Pangilinan and Rep. Marcelino Libanan, representing both houses of Congress; the justice secretary; retired SC Justice Regino Hermosisima; Dean Amado Dimayuga from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines; and private sector representative Teresita Cruz Sison.

The President has yet to appoint a representative from the academe.

Printing chief suspended for 6 months

MALACAÑANG has suspended the chief of the National Printing Office (NPO) for six months for an anomalous transaction worth P5.8 million five years ago.

Melanio Torio, an Estrada appointee, was suspended effective last week.

It took the Palace one-and-a-half years to uphold the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission's decision.

PAGC recommended the suspension in December 2001 based on a complaint filed by "concerned employees" in 1998. The suspension order, dated last May 29, was signed by acting deputy executive secretary Manuel Gaite.

NPO employees who said Torio had been confident he would not be penalized furnished the INQUIRER with a copy of the order.

The NPO prints all government paraphernalia, including ballots. The PAGC ruled that Torio violated public bidding procedures when he procured 3,000 reams of untested carbonless paper worth P5.8 million.

Multi-Forms, the supplier, was not required to post the obligatory bidder's and performance bonds, either.

PAGC said Torio had no reason not to conduct a public bidding since the acquisition had not been an emergency. Also, the commission said, Torio broke a rule that specified deals worth more than P2 million should be signed by the press secretary and two undersecretaries.

The NPO is under the Office of the Press Secretary.

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Divide Braganza, Rufino turf, GMA urged

By Carlito Pablo

"DIVIDE the archipelago politically."

This way, Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) told Malacañang yesterday, it could prevent a turf war between the two political advisers of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Nograles, the Lakas party whip for Mindanao, was referring to newly appointed Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Hernani Braganza and Presidential Liaison Officer on Political Affairs Jose Ma. Rufino.

"Braganza takes charge of Luzon, and Rufino gets Visayas and Mindanao," Nograles suggested. "(Then) there would be no turf problems and no intrigues."

Ideally, he said, "it would be good" if the two could work "without stepping on each other's toes." As it was, he noted, there was no clear-cut definition of responsibilities and "only the President can make the distinction."

In earlier interviews, Rufino has complained that Braganza's appointment as political adviser was akin to having two drivers in one seat.

Rufino is executive director of Lakas-UMD and was previously acknowledged as the presidential adviser on political affairs.

In fact, Nograles noted, up until the Lakas national directorate meeting held about three weeks ago, Rufino represented the Palace.

But titles are "not important," the solon stressed. "What matters is who has the President's ear."

On a lighter note, Nograles pointed out that the two advisers were both identified with former President Fidel Ramos. Braganza is Ramos' nephew while Rufino was the former president's trusted political aide.

"Ramos must be (so) important to President Macapagal that two FVR guys are now her political advisers," Nograles said.

Braganza was appointed press secretary last January and immediately got embroiled in a turf war with Malacañang Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

Tiglao is overall communications boss at the Palace, with jurisdiction over the press secretary and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

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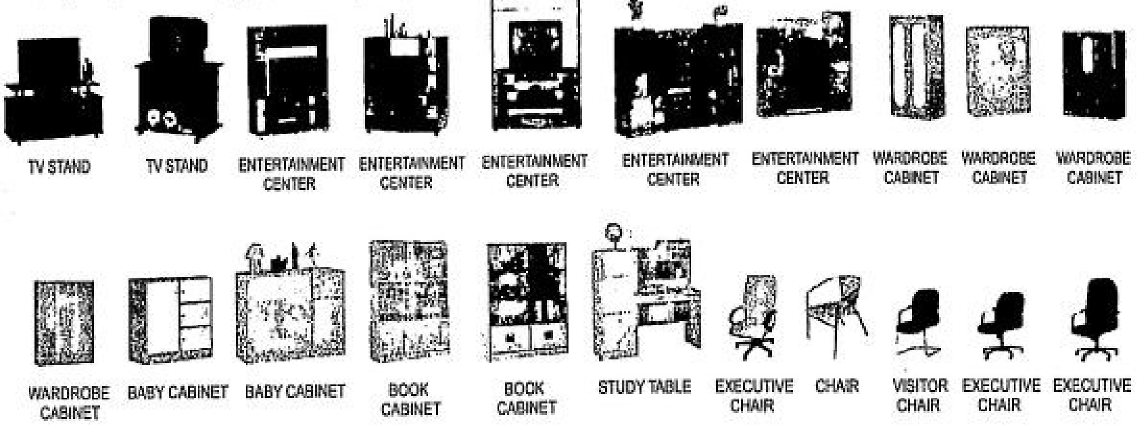

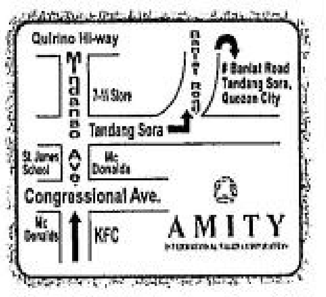

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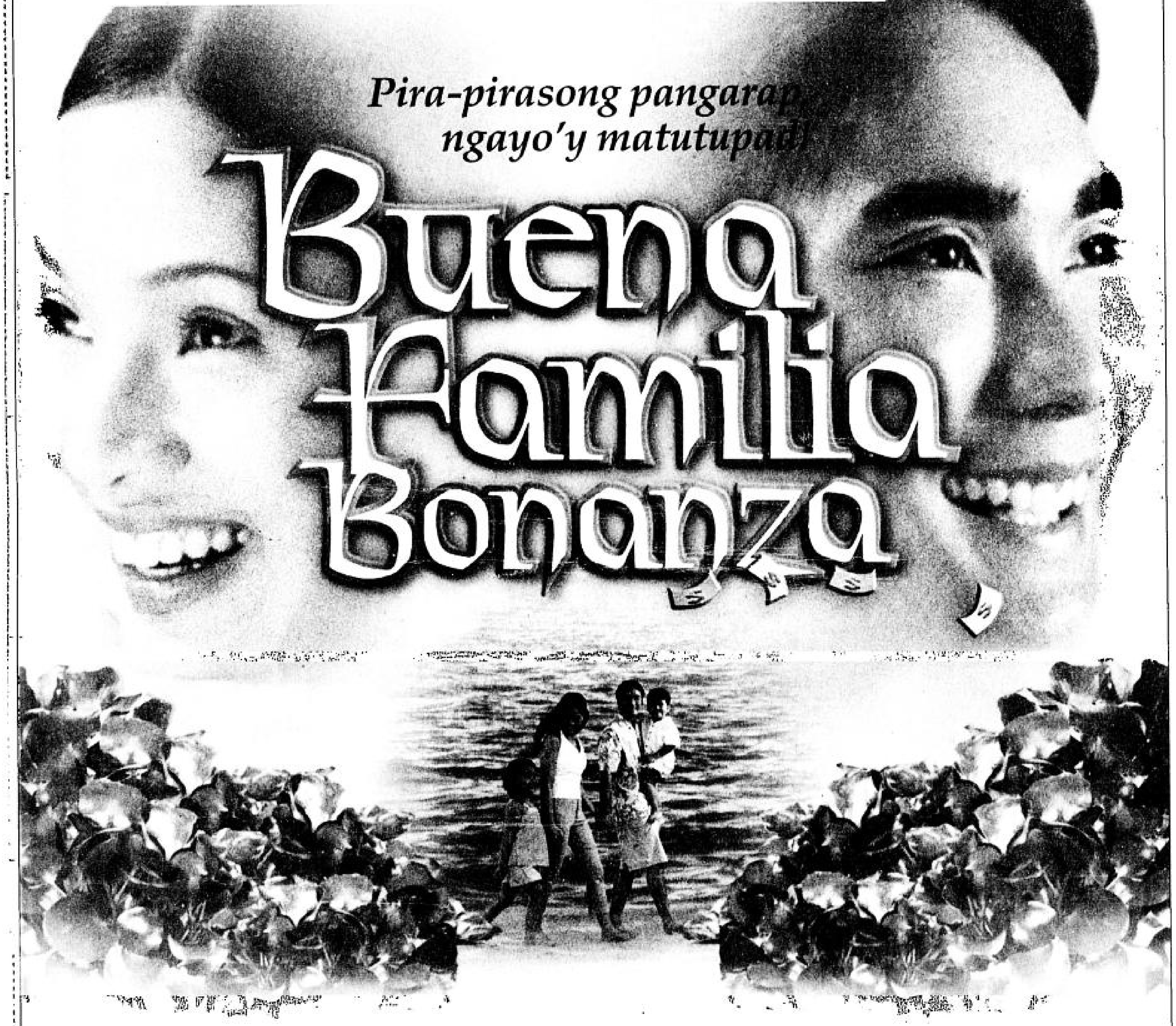

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 18, 2003
11th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 2 Cor 9:6-11
Gospel: **Mt 6:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be careful not to make a show of your righteousness before people. If you do so, you do not gain anything from your Father in heaven. When you give something to the poor, do not have it trumpeted before you, as do those who want to be seen in the synagogue s and in the streets in order to be praised by the people. I assure you, they have been already paid in full.

"If you give something to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift remains really secret. Your Father who sees what is kept secret, will reward you.

"When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on street corners to be seen by everyone. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you."

Commentary

Jesus has put all acts of piety in a new perspective. No longer are they simply an expression of religion but filial actions. The Father takes interest in what we do. He watches over our most intimate moments and penetrates the motivations of our hearts. What we do as sons and daughters because we are his sons and daughters is what pleases him. We give alms because we cannot allow a brother or a sister to live in a manner less dignified than we do. We pray because it is most natural for children communicate with their father. We fast to remind ourselves that no earthly treasure is greater than the love of our Father in heaven. We expect no reward except to hear, "In you I am well pleased."

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (DANGEROUS DRUGS)—Illegal possession of dangerous drugs—In a prosecution for illegal possession of dangerous drugs, the following facts must be proven with moral certainty: (1) that the accused is in possession of the object identified as prohibited or regulated drug; (2) that such possession is not authorized by law; and (3) that the accused freely and consciously possessed the said drug. Anent the third element, to warrant conviction, possession of illegal drugs must be with knowledge of the accused or that animus possidendi existed together with the possession or control of said articles. Nonetheless, this dictum must be read in consonance with our ruling that possession of a prohibited drug per se constitutes prima facie evidence of knowledge or animus possidendi sufficient to convict an accused absent a satisfactory explanation of such possession. In effect, the onus probandi is shifted to accused to explain the absence of knowledge or animus possidendi in this situation. Appellant Modesto Tee opted not to testify in his defense. Instead, he presented his mother as his lone witness, who testified on matters totally irrelevant to his case. Failing to discharge the burden of the evidence on the possession of prohibited drug, appellant's guilt in Criminal Case No. 15800-R was established beyond reasonable doubt. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Tee, G.R. Nos. 140546-47. Jan. 20, 2003]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Dante Tan using 3 passports

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER eluding three arrest warrants in the Philippines, obtaining Australian citizenship and setting off a grave political scandal in that country, fugitive businessman Dante Tan now has a Chinese passport, the justice department said.

Tan has fled Australia and is now using multiple passports, Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

"He has an Australian, a Chinese and a Philippine passport," she said.

But Tan's use of multiple passports will not hinder the search for the businessman who is wanted in the Philippines to face charges of insider trading and securities fraud, the justice official said.

Gutierrez said the government was now seeking the cooperation and assistance of an unnamed country where the ethnic Chinese businessman is in hiding.

But she would not name the country so as not to jeopardize efforts to bring Tan back to the Philippines.

She laughed off a question on whether Tan was in China and denied that he was in Germany. Gutierrez clarified earlier that Tan was not in Singapore.

"We have different information but we're still coordinating with people who can help us in verifying the reports. We are trying our best to get him back," Gutierrez said.

She said the justice department would also confirm from the foreign affairs department whether Tan's Philippine passport has already been canceled.

Tan, who is wanted for the biggest insider trading scam in the country's history, is on the run after causing a scandal in Australia.

Australian Immigration Minister Paul Ruddock was questioned in Parliament on suspicion that he allegedly intervened to grant a migrant's visa to Tan after the businessman made an illegal donation to Ruddock's political campaign.

Tan had escaped to Australia but then fled again on June 4 after the scandal involving Ruddock broke.

Gutierrez said the DOJ would make formal representations with the officials of the country where Tan is hiding for his repatriation.

"We could ask for his surrender if the law of that country allows it," she said.

DOJ officials are trying to find out that country's requirements for Tan's repatriation, she said.

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Women for Roco movement launched today

SEVERAL women, including sectoral representatives nationwide, will launch the Women for Roco (W for R) movement today at 3 p.m. at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Organizers said the gathering signals the start of a crusade for good government based on former senator and education secretary Raul Roco's proclamation that "the key to the future success of this country is to reduce corruption in government to zero."

"Let a million flowers bloom" is the theme of the Women for Roco Movement, which aims to gather more than a million like-minded women to throw their weight and influence behind Roco, whom they believe to be the only presidential candidate capable of restoring rule of law, respect for justice, and integrity in public service to the Philippines.

Heading the overall organizing committee as convenor is Lorna Kapunan.

The W for R movement is a precursor of the Women Are for Roco Movement (Warm), which supported the Roco candidacy in 1998.

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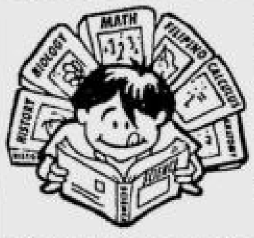
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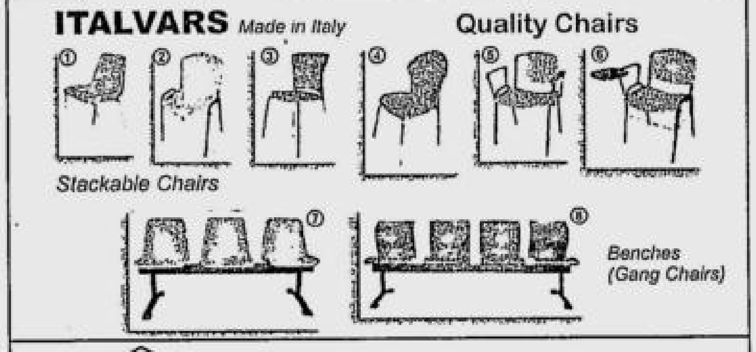

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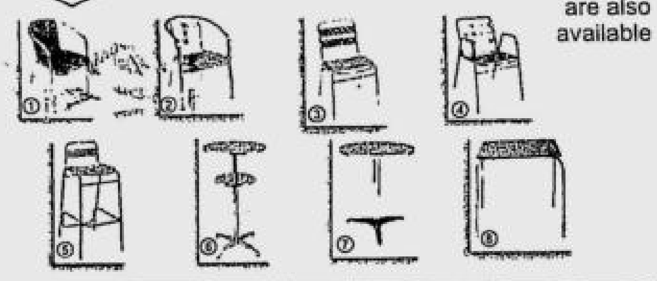

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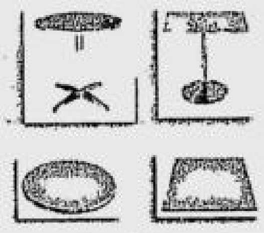
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OPINION

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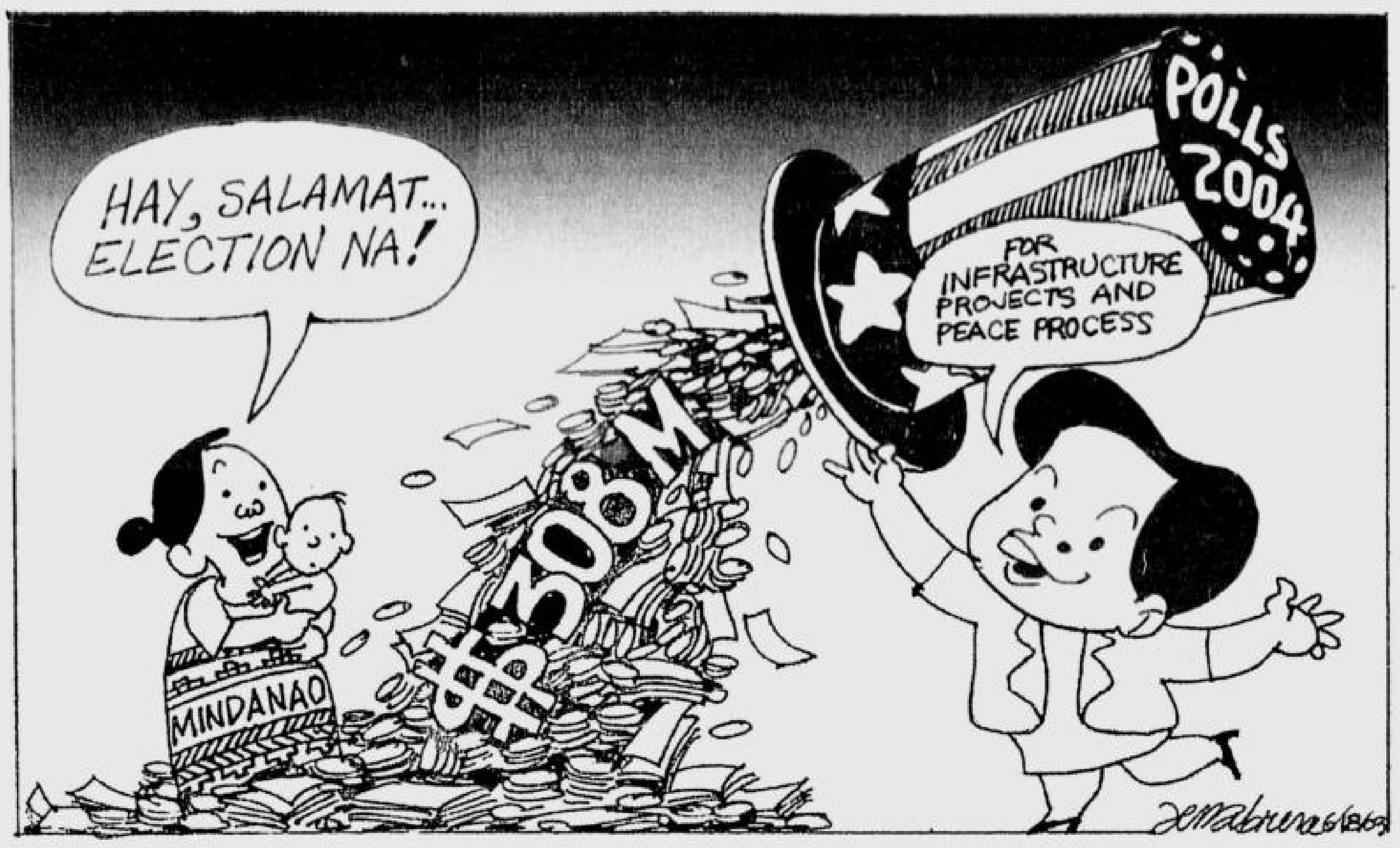
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Drug capital?

EDITORIAL

ABOUT one in every four Filipino families has one, but at the rate their number has been growing, it won't be long before every family will have the blackest of black sheep, a drug user. According to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), there are now a total of 3.4 million users of prohibited drugs nationwide, with 1.8 million of them using drugs regularly. In 1972, there were only about 20,000 users, meaning that their ranks have been growing by an average of more than five times a year for the last 30 years. Unless this trend is reversed, Sen. Robert Barbers said, the Philippines could become Asia's drug capital in the next five years.

But if the image of millions of Filipinos wasting billions or simply wasting away is not scary enough, it has also been noted that users who were once considered victims have become victimizers themselves. Anselmo Avenido Jr., chief of the PDEA, said 65 to 70 percent of criminals being held in the country's prisons were convicted of drug-related crimes. And many of those crimes, it should be added, have become more violent, savage and brutal.

Such statistics should serve to underscore the urgency of addressing the drug problem forcefully. If 70 percent of crimes can be traced to illegal drugs, then stopping or at least bringing down the incidence of drug trafficking should be the first line of attack in the government's continuing war against criminality.

But of course, that is easier said than done. Barbers, who chairs the Senate committee on law and order and illegal drugs, has pointed out that illegal drugs like *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) can be brought in from China through many "entry points," including airports, sea ports, economic zones and just about anywhere because of the Philippines' extensive coastline.

The burden of stopping the flow of drugs thus becomes very much heavier for the local police and the PDEA. But in this area of law enforcement another huge obstacle has come up. Barbers said policemen were themselves to blame for the rapid spread of the use of *shabu*. Many police officers are either protectors of drug syndicates, users or even pushers, he said.

Which is not exactly news anymore. Pick any community that has problems with drugs, and you can be sure there is a police officer protecting the pushers if he is not doing the pushing himself. In some cases, it is not just ordinary policemen who deal drugs but agents of anti-drug agencies, like the now defunct Narcotics Command of the Philippine National Police.

Congress has passed a very tough anti-drug law that penalizes mere possession of a small amount of drugs with 13 years' imprisonment and selling as little as 50 grams of shabu with life imprisonment. There have been 6,500 arrests for various drug offenses in the past 10 months, according to Avenido. And there have been some spectacular drug busts, like the discovery in December last year of a big drug laboratory in Valenzuela, Metro Manila, where P2.2 billion worth of shabu was seized. But even all these will hardly make a dent on the colossal drug trade.

The mandatory drug testing of policemen will not help much either, although it is a step in the right direction. What will get the anti-drug campaign really going is a real, honest-to-goodness crackdown on the protectors of drug syndicates and drug dealers in the police force and other drug-enforcement agencies. And while the authorities are at it, they should not forget to also bring in the corrupt judges and prosecutors who have shamelessly allowed drug lords to go free.

If we can't seal off our borders, we should at least try to seal off the pockets of corrupt officials or better yet send them off to jail.

Unchanged

FOREIGN COMMENT

ISRAELI Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent admission, that it is impossible to keep the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under occupation forever, has done little, if anything, to change the way he is perceived in the Arab world. His gory track record belies any bid on his part to cast himself as a peacemaker.

Sharon unwittingly fed doubts about his alleged change of heart when he pledged to remove "unauthorized" Jewish outposts in the West Bank. His pledge was a glaring attempt to circumvent a freeze stipulated in the US-backed "road map" peace plan on Jewish settlements. The world rightly believes that Jewish settlements pose a major obstacle to peacemaking in the Middle East. Sharon is expected to manipulate the far right's anger over obligations set in the "road map" to wriggle out of American pressure to carry out his side of the deal.

Egyptian Gazette (Cairo, Egypt)

Barbers and Lim on what's wrong with the police

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

SEN. Robert Barbers and former Manila Police chief (and former mayor, NBI chief and Cabinet member) Alfredo Lim had a reunion of sorts at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) last Monday. Barbers was a policeman under Lim back when the police were respected and feared and the Manila cops deserved the name Manila's Finest.

Barbers had been invited, along with PBA Commissioner Noli Eala (who didn't show up to answer questions on the drug tests of basketball players which Barbers' committee on public order and illegal drugs is investigating. But before the forum, Barbers and Lim, a regular at the Kapihan, had an opportunity to talk about the good old days. "He was my coach," said Barbers of Lim.

Barbers was a fearless and feared cop in the Manila Police Department (MPD) when Lim was its chief. It was Barbers who shot and killed alleged drug and gambling lord Don Pepe Oyson while trying to escape from a police van on the way to deliver him to Lim in the MPD. It was Lim who put an end to the life of a notorious manufacturer of fake drugs whom the police couldn't put behind bars. It was another fearless officer under Lim, Reynaldo Jaylo, who killed an army major in a shootout during a drug entrapment case in Makati. Lim, then the NBI chief, lamented that the major was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani while Jaylo is now under trial for homicide.

Asked who he thinks is the best policeman of all time in Manila, Lim answered "Barbers."

Besides Barbers and you, he was asked again.

Lim enumerated Jaylo, Col. Johnny Lagasca, who also has several notches in his gun, and Col. Felicisimo Lazaro, former chief of the Detective Bureau. Barbers mentioned his uncle, Gen. James Barbers.

Asked what's wrong with the present Philippine National Police, why it is not as effective and feared as the old police force, Barbers said it was the integration of the Philippine Constabulary with the police. Since then, graduates of the Philippine Military Academy lorded it over the police force. They always occupied the top positions; the regular police officers were relegated to lower ranks. Yet it was the policemen who were trained for civilian police work; the PMAers were trained for war.

Barbers said he himself is a victim of this discrimination. He said he was recommended (by Lim and other officers) for promotion. In spite of many medals, awards for outstanding work and strong recommendations from police officers, Barbers was not promoted. Instead, he was demoted. He was thrown to Bicutan. From a force with 100 men under him, Barbers was assigned only two cops in Bicutan.

"That was when I decided to quit the police force and run for congressman in my home province of Surigao del Norte." The discrimination against him proved to be a blessing in disguise. As the saying goes, "You can't put a good man down."

After a stint as congressman, Barbers was appointed to the Cabinet and then ran and won a seat in the Senate. Now he may become vice president of the Philippines, or even president.

Barbers told the Kapihan that he "is not seeking the position," but that if his party, Lakas, chooses him as its vice presidential candidate, he would accept.

Who would he prefer as running mate?

Reply: "I have no preferences. My party is choosing between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Danding Cojuangco. Whoever the party chooses is okay with me."

What if the party wants you to be its presidential candidate?

"If that's what they want, I'll accept it."

If you don't become president or vice president and they ask you to head the PNP, will you accept?

"I'm already retired from the police force."

They can always make an exception of you because you have such a good record as an outstanding cop.

"If that's what they want, I'll do it."

For his part, Lim said one of the biggest mistakes was the abolition of the old Detective Bureau. The DB was the elite in the police force. Only the best from all the police divisions were promoted to it. You have to be outstanding in your unit to deserve promotion to the DB, Lim said. And that is the ambition of all policemen, to get to the DB.

The detectives followed their cases up to the courts, Lim said, unlike now when many cops don't even know how to write a proper police report. And somebody else follows the cases in court, that is why many cases are dismissed and criminals go free.

Why are the cops not feared now by criminals?

"Not only are they not feared," Lim said, "but criminals now have the temerity to kill cops. During our time, when a policeman is killed, the order goes out to every cop; drop everything. Go after the cop-killer.

"And the killer is captured or killed in a matter of hours or days. Sometimes, he is buried ahead of the cop he had killed. In contrast, how many cop killings are still unsolved now? How can the police scare the criminals when they can't even catch the killers of their own brothers-in-arms?" Lim asked.

Both Lim and Barbers said that the control of the police force should be returned to the mayors. The mayors are answerable to the people and they can more closely monitor the performance of each policeman, they said.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Remember this is only a joke.

There is a video of Bishop Bacani and his secretary sleeping together. The video shows the two of them dozing off during a long sermon by El Shaddai's Mike Velarde.

Illuminations

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know whether Iluminada Mangalos will graduate with honors from her college course at the Central Luzon State University. But whether she does or not, she's already a valedictorian in my book.

Mangalos is the 55-year-old mother of six who has managed to bag a scholarship at the CSLU, and is finishing a course in elementary school education there. She is now in fourth year and will graduate next year. She was written about by Anselmo Roque, one of our Central Luzon correspondents—his article appeared on our front page last Sunday. It was a heartwarming story. As good news goes, we couldn't have spread a better one on a day made for listening to it.

Mangalos has shown she richly deserves her first name. She has always lamented the fact that she never went to college, a state of affairs caused not by lack of interest in study or a misspent youth long since regarded with regret, but by poverty. She belonged to a huge brood, and it was all they could do to eat, let alone enroll in school. She was lucky to have finished high school. She always dreamed of going on to college and becoming a teacher.

What makes her stand out from everybody else who had that dream is that she never gave up on it. The years never succeeded in dimming it, they only managed to burnish it. Learning that a scholarship from the local government was to be had, Mangalos applied for it and got it.

It hasn't been easy doing college. It takes an hour for her to get from her place to school. After school, she has to rush home to prepare a meal for her family before studying. The same is true in the morning. Before her scholastic duties, there are her domestic ones. Being impoverished—she is married to a disabled farmer—she also depends on her brothers and sisters for money for school.

On top of everything else, there is her age. At 55, she is probably the oldest college student in the country today. Her classmates and teachers call her "Manang," the Ilocano term of respect for an older female person. None of it embarrasses her. Despite the adversity, she takes great joy in being a student once more. She has one advice for other students, and that is for them to appreciate their boundless blessings. Not everyone gets to have a crack at a future that way.

I can't imagine a better way to start the school year than with someone like Iluminada Mangalos to illuminate everyone's path. Frankly, I don't know why the movie people aren't falling in line to buy her story. It's infinitely more interesting, if not inspiring, than the life story of cops and criminals, who are not always distinguishable in this country, they are tripping one another to get. If Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig," a story about elementary public school teachers in an obscure town, which went on to take the movie capitals of the world by storm, is any indication, there is money in them thar schools. And what more dramatic story is there than Mangalos'?

What makes Mangalos' decision to go back to school particularly courageous, if not heroic, is that we have a culture that militates against it. Elsewhere in the world, that decision would not be a problem at all, it would be perfectly admirable and lauded by the community. Here, well, we do have a culture that compels people not to stray very far from the norm. We have a perfectly strict, if perverse, code of propriety enforced by *kantiaw*. The last is a word that is not so easy to translate, it is more than teasing. It has a positive side to it of course in that it lays low the pompous and self-aggrandizing, often to be found in city hall. But it has its negative, indeed vicious, side too, which is that it discourages people from improving themselves.

I did write some time ago about a group of kids I saw in the MRT laughing and making fun of another kid who had earphones on and was muttering Spanish phrases. Obviously, the guy was trying to learn Spanish and did not know his muttering had become audible. The group near him was imitating him and laughing themselves silly. Never has the last idiom taken on more meaning. It was silly. It was perfectly clear who was going to have the last laugh.

Mangalos may be called "Manang" out of respect by some people in her school but not so by others in her community. Until Roque took up his pen to give her the proper accolade she deserves, I wonder what she had to go through to get her way. I wonder how many people told her she had better things to do like taking care of her children and exerting herself to put food on the table. I wonder how many people told her her place was at the side of her long-suffering husband and not beside kids young enough to be her grandchildren. I wonder how many people told her she wasn't just embarrassing herself by rediscovering the groves of academe a little too late in life, she was embarrassing her kids and husband as well.

I wonder how many people told her becoming a teacher sucked anyway, better to sell pork in the market or aspire to become a caretaker in Hong Kong.

If so, and I half suspect it is amply so, Mangalos did not listen to them. She showed that there are no limits to the human desire to better oneself—certainly those limits may never be set by age. She showed that courage is not found in the hearts of those who can afford it but in those of people, rich or poor, comfortable or desperate, young or old, who crave a goal. She showed that there is no deterring the determined. Whether Mangalos graduates with honors next year or not, she has already done honorably by herself and her community. Whether she becomes a teacher or not, she will already have taught us something.

She is a shining example to all of us.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

A religious speaks out

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

LAST Sunday, I was interviewed by the staff of "Pipol," one of ABS-CBN's prime time talk shows. The question asked of me was: In the midst of the controversies wracking the Church now, how does a religious like myself view the vocation of priesthood? Do we see ourselves still pursuing this life despite the seeming backlash on Church credibility that these recent scandals can cause?

The dominant feeling I said was that of sadness. It is sad that the first time the news broke out on the alleged sexual harassment involving Bishop Ted Bacani, many people right away made up their mind. It was a classic case of trial by publicity. The verdict was already out even when the facts of the case were still being determined.

It is even sadder that even if Bishop Bacani comes out of this controversy innocent, he will not come out unscathed. The stigma may remain to haunt him for the rest of his life. This could be the beginning of the end for the illustrious "career" of this bishop who has devoted himself to a life of service; this servant of the Church who has all his life championed worthwhile causes; this man of brilliant intellect who knows how to reach out to the poor and has stood with them in their trials. All the sacrifices he has made for the Church are now simply ignored and forgotten because of a single incident, an alleged mistake. Shouldn't his proven and life-long dedication and devotion to the Church and to Philippine society be an argument for more charity toward him?

It is a sad commentary on our culture, how we easily rush to judgment, how we easily believe rumors as gospel truths, how easily we condemn people before they are proven guilty. There is also a predilection, especially in the media, for the probable "fall" of the high and the mighty. And yet the Gospels remind us, " Whoever among you is sinless, let him cast the first stone!"

Among the religious, there is also fear over the recent scandals. After the Bacani exposé, apparently, the prevailing mood in the media these days is to unearth more scandals in the Philippine Church, to leave no stones unturned. Even past cases are reportedly being resurrected. The objective could be to create an atmosphere of panic, such as that which transpired in the United States last year over sex scandals involving American priests. (How we go to great lengths in imitating whatever is happening in the United States!)

More fearful and disturbing however is the obvious attempt to divide the Church from within, to pit the members of the hierarchy against one another. One tabloid which is reportedly owned by a presidential wannabe carried the story that Bishop Socrates Villegas is the mastermind behind the Bacani exposé. Bishop Villegas, it suggests, is getting rid of his rival for the throne of Jaime Cardinal Sin. Anyone who has come to know Bishop Villegas will find this story preposterous. He is of course not perfect but one thing is certain: there is not a single malicious bone in this man. Nor is there any probability that Bishop Bacani, so recently appointed to head the new Diocese of Novaliches, was being seriously considered for the Archdiocese of Manila.

In the ongoing witch-hunts, there may be more than meets the eye. Is there now an attempt to discredit the Church in order to emasculate its influence in the elections next year? But beyond the elections and beyond politics, what good will a discredited and divided Church bring to this country? Despite its many shortcomings, the Church especially in our recent political history, has been the moral guardian of this country. With its network of parishes and schools, it has been the agent for the moral and spiritual formation of the people, especially the young. It is not farfetched to say then that the downfall of the Church will also mean the downfall of society.

And yet amid the feelings of fear and sadness in religious and Church communities, many are still hopeful. These recent scandals can also lead to the purification of the Church. As Cardinal Sin pointed out in his Pastoral last week, "This is not the worst of times." These trying times for the Church can be a "*kairos*", a moment of grace. As one American bishop puts it, writing about their own share of scandals in the United States, the present crisis in the Church has weakened the Church. And yet, he says, it now resembles the vulnerable Christ, or the insecure and defenseless early Christian communities. Isn't it true, he asks, that it is in our weakest moments that Christ is strongest in us? Hasn't it often been observed that it is when the Church is persecuted that saints and martyrs of the faith—lay and religious-abound?

Indeed, the reason for this hope is Christ Himself. The Church is no mere human institution. Christ Himself founded her. His spirit dwells in the Church and continues to animate and sustain her. She is therefore both human and divine. Human because of her members and divine because of her origin, her founder. Vatican II declares that the Church is both sinful and saintly. Her humanity and sinfulness are very evident. The Church through the centuries has committed many sins, many errors, for which the current Pope has been asking for forgiveness. And yet, the Church is no mere human institution. If she were only that, the Church with all its scandals and foibles, would have perished a long time ago. But she remains standing. To outsiders, this can only mean that she is an enigma of sorts. To the faithful, however, it is the Spirit of Christ that has made her survive crisis after crisis.

The Church ultimately is Christ yesterday, today and forever. This is the source of our hope.

Missing camera holds clue to Everest mystery

FEATURE

Terry Friel

KATHMANDU—One of the first things Edmund Hillary did when he reached the top of Mount Everest half a century ago was to photograph the scene to prove he and climbing mate Tenzing Norgay Sherpa were first.

Somewhere on the vast mountain, is another camera that may prove they were not.

In 1924, Britain's most accomplished climber of his day, George Mallory, and partner Andrew "Sandy" Irvine disappeared after last being seen "moving expeditiously" toward the summit, sparking mountaineering's most enduring mystery: Did they die on the way to the top or on their way back?

"The conundrum that elevates Mallory and Irvine's vanishing act to the realm of the mythic is the possibility that the pair could have reached the summit," Conrad Anker, who found Mallory's body in 1999, wrote in his book, "The Lost Explorer." The answer may lie on the film inside the missing Kodak camera 37-year-old Mallory took with him.

Mallory's body was found frozen into the scree at 26,700 feet, his fingers dug in as if trying to stop a fall, a tattered, broken rope around his waist and his body mummified to a marble white by the sub-freezing temperatures.

His skull was cracked, his right leg badly broken and he appeared to have died in a long fall, Anker wrote.

Anker and his colleagues found Mallory's pocket knife, his altimeter, a monogrammed handkerchief and even a tin of beef lozenges. But no camera and no backpack.

No one knows if the camera was lost in the fall or if it could be with Irvine's body, still somewhere on the mountain.

And nor can anyone be sure that even if the camera were found, it would still be possible to develop pictures.

"I can't give a definite answer by saying 'yes' or 'no,'" James Blamphin, spokesman for Eastman Kodak Company in New York, told Reuters. "It's very difficult to comment without seeing the condition of the camera." Hillary, now Sir Edmund and 83, does not care if his hero Mallory—who made the famous quip he wanted to climb Everest "because it is there"—was first.

"It's a great mystery," Hillary, who looked for signs Mallory had been first when he reached the summit in 1953, told Reuters in Kathmandu during last month's 50th anniversary celebrations.

"Who knows? Mallory may have reached the summit. Probably he didn't. But he certainly did not reach the bottom.

"So, whatever happens, although he is a heroic figure, he didn't quite complete the job." Mallory's 1924 expedition, his third to Everest, remains one of the world's greatest climbing feats.

With Irvine, a relatively inexperienced 22-year-old, Mallory set out for the summit from a staging camp on June 8.

They were climbing on the northern side, from Tibet, because the easier southern route used by Hillary and Tenzing almost three decades later was in Nepal, then closed to foreigners.

Their gear was primitive: hobnail boots with nails sticking out of the sole instead of crampons; cumbersome oxygen systems which Irvine tinkered with constantly to try to improve; and fragile cotton ropes that would be unacceptable now.

Against the bitter temperatures, they wore seven or eight layers of mainly woollen and waterproof gaberdine clothing.

When they were last seen they had come as close as 150 vertical meters below the 8,850 meter summit.

When a modern expedition tried to climb in similar clothes and with similar gear a few years ago, they did not get very far before the cold forced them to turn back.

Approached from the northeast ridge, the top of Everest is protected by a sheer, 90-foot wall, the Second Step.

This wall defeated all comers until 1960, when a Chinese team claimed to be the first to summit from the north after climbers stood on each other's shoulders to pass the Second Step. Most experts dispute that summit claim.

It wasn't until 1975 that another Chinese expedition reached the summit by rigging a ladder up the step—which most climbers still use today.

Despite Mallory's natural skills, most experts believe it unlikely he and Irvine could have reached the summit with their primitive equipment and limited and leaky oxygen supply.

"The clincher is the Second Step," said Anker. "In my heart, I've always wanted to believe Mallory and Irvine reached the summit in 1924. It would have made for one of the ultimate of all mountaineering tales.

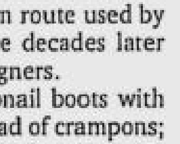
"But...I believe there is no possible way." Still, recent revelations by a member of the 1960 Chinese team that he had seen a body at 27,200 feet—which could only have been Irvine's—are likely to inspire more searches.

"There's just a tiny iota of a chance it will ever be solved," said Kathmandu-based mountaineering historian Elizabeth Hawley. "But in a way, maybe it's better if it's not." *Reuters*

Minang, the butterfly girl

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



EACH time on June 19 and Dec. 30, I beat my brains out trying to find something on Jose Rizal that I haven't written about before. While there are 25 volumes of material available, the question is: What will catch the attention of bored readers? Since the well has run dry of controversy, we have recently been treated to well-meaning but poorly researched and inadequately documented doubt cast on the authenticity of Rizal's execution photograph and the original manuscript of the "Ultimo Adios," preserved in the National Library. Now, that's really scraping the bottom of the barrel. At work on my forthcoming book on Rizal's women, I struggled with a little known, unfinished, Rizal work titled "Memories," because it mentions a woman not in the present list of his girlfriends. Part of this wordy text reads:

"It was the month of April... I've been out of college for a few days. Like the earth and the meadows I was then in the spring of life. I was about sixteen years old and I was dreaming of the most ideal illusions. Everything seems to me good, beautiful and angelic like morning breezes, like a child's smiles, or the mysterious language of the flowers. The memories of [the Ateneo], my professors, friends and comrades, my studies, recreations and strolls have not been erased from my mind and filled almost all my thoughts. What dreams and what projects I cherished then. I saw the world through a glass that beautified it and rendered it poetic...

"I was spending my vacation beside my family in my picturesque town. My recreations were the simplest and most primitive: taking a bath in the springs and streams, fishing in the river or in the lake or going around the countryside on horseback.

"One day in the beginning of April, it occurred to me to take a bath in a famous rivulet of a neighboring town along the shore like mine. In a light and cool carromata drawn by one horse, I was driving along the rustic road that led to it... After passing the dangerous gorge that limits my town and divides it from that of N... an enchanting landscape greets the eye. The town's church with its parish house in the distance amidst coconut trees and bamboos, on the right slope of the mountain and on the left the wide lake, calm and placid, sending forth to the shore its soft waves that die murmuring on the fine sand...

"After driving some distance I stopped before a small house on the edge of the road... It seemed to be waiting for the bather desirous of immersing himself in the cool water of the nearby stream. Those environs breathe peace and tranquility rendered even more pleasing by the rustling of the canes, that music of Philippine forests, a silent concert, so to speak. I went down and got ready to take a bath..."

Rizal spotted three *lavanderas* seated on a rock making noise with their chatter and the beating of their paddles. He avoided them, and of course the dirt and grime from the dirty clothes, by moving upstream where the foliage is thick and the stillness more soothing. It is here that he:

"Heard a fresh tiny voice humming a gay song. At that point the rivulet made a sharp turn which made me suppose that the singer ought to be very near. Wishing to know her, I continued my fluvial stroll and what a pleasant sight then came into view!

"She was a young woman of fourteen or sixteen summers, fair, slim for her age, with her black tresses loose, almost reaching her heels. She wore a red skirt girded under her shoulders, a black tapis over it which traced the contour of her virginal form. Over her round shoulders was a white soft towel which hid them. Youth, friendly fairy of woman and love, filled her with an indefinable charm. It seemed she was chasing a butterfly."

More mushy text follows. Rizal is obviously young and in love or so he thought or imagined himself to be. The text is similar to his juvenile diary, the emotions recorded here echo that expressed when he fell in love with Segunda Katigbak. Reading this made me wonder if it was autobiographical. Perhaps it is a colored rendering of an actual event, maybe it is but a work of the imagination? Chapter 8 of the "Noli Me Tangere" is also called "Memories" though the contents are not the same. However, in Chapter 7 of the "Noli" in the famous love scene "Idyll in an azotea," we find a conversation between Ibarra and Maria Clara. They are getting reacquainted after years of separation. They connect through shared memories and Maria Clara said:

"We went with your mother to bathe in that stream under the shade of the bamboo clumps. Along the bank grew many flowers and plants with strange-sounding names that you kept teaching me in Spanish and Latin because by then you were studying at the Ateneo. I did not pay you much attention. I was at times occupied chasing butterflies and dragonflies that fluttered around with pin-like bodies and all the colors of the rainbow, reflecting the light of mother-of-pearl, and chasing each other among the flowers..."

Scattered in the text of "Memories" are the descriptions of plants that even I find strange-sounding today. Is "Memories" a draft of something that eventually found its way into the "Noli"? Could this text be a personal narrative, a page separated from his diary? If so, then we will have to add yet another name to the long list of Rizal's loves, a woman we only know as Minang, the butterfly girl.

***

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

A day on Banahaw

HIGH BLOOD

Jett E. Aviñante

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

HAVING read a lot about the sacred mountain from Jaime Licauco, I have always been looking forward for a chance to experience mystical Mt. Banahaw. My longing was finally rewarded when family friends invited me for a spiritual pilgrimage to the New Jerusalem.

We left the Alabang area at around 5:30 in the morning of March 3, 2002 and reached Barangay Sta. Lucia a little past seven, parked our vehicles and through the efficient instructions of Gloria, our unofficial group leader, we were soon walking toward the foot of the mountain. Along the way we passed by makeshift stores selling souvenir items along with native food and delicacies. Most of us bought candles that would be needed for the different caves or *puestos*.

Suddenly we found ourselves face to face with a big rock with a caption in big, white letters: *Santong lugar, igalang po natin*. Beyond the rock were people praying amid lighted candles. There was a big, old mage of the crucified Christ and a fading replica of the Ten Commandments. We stopped, lighted candles and prayed for a while then continued walking. At the place called Jerusalem, there was a big table, simple comfort rooms and little huts all around where pilgrims could stay overnight. The place served as our station.

Gloria suggested that we eat our snacks and take only water, T-shirt, a towel, candies, water in small bottles and not to forget our hats. After a hurried snack, we started inching over steep and uneven steps of natural rock formations. We passed by the Altar ng Jerusalem, a natural formation of huge rocks that looked like a giant altar with two candles burning though no one was seen praying.

Crisostomo Llamado guided us to the caves of St. Peter and St Paul. We lighted candles and said prayers before we moved on to the next cave, Ina ng Awa, with the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. At the time we arrived, a "Rosario Cantada" was being held by another group, so we joined in the praying of the Holy Rosary.

Close by was the Cueva de Jusgado. It had a small opening just enough for one person to back into. There was an anecdote that pilgrims who are sinners cannot enter this cave no matter how much they try. Gloria advised us to "Leave everything behind so as not to be carrying much once you are inside."

As we entered, we brought lighted candles, not for any religious reason but simply because it was totally dark inside. Aside from my T-shirt and short pants, the only thing I did not leave was my pair of eyeglasses, fearing that my sight could be distorted if I didn't have them. When it was my turn to enter, I did it very cautiously while showing Terry, my wife, how to do it. It was difficult to find any foothold for my feet to help me move forward from my awkward position. A guide held my left foot, cautioning me to be very careful, or I might fall directly into a deep pit should I make the wrong move.

Entering the cave was like being born, as there was no way I could return to the entrance. I thought that was the only problem. I learned too late that I was inside a long, dark, narrow cave (tunnel) about 20 to 30 meters in length just big enough for my body to make slight movements. Some portions were slippery and surrounded by sharp, protruding stones. I had to slither and contort my body like a snake to come out unhurt.

The scientist in me feared that the lack of oxygen and the emission of carbon dioxide from the many burning candles could cause all of us inside to be suffocated. At a spot enough for two persons to stand, I met the 11-year-old son of Dennis and Gloria who said he could not make it anymore. I assured him that he could easily make it as it was doubly difficult to return. That boy's lamentation horrified my wife who thought she too couldn't move any further. I encouraged her to think positively and be inspired by Linda who had gone ahead. I then suggested to the two discouraged crawlers to allow me to go ahead and just follow me.

In a part of the cave where the opening was big enough, I couldn't find anything to hold my feet so I could move forward. I was in this predicament when the candle I was holding fell. In moments like this, faith in oneself and, most of all, faith in God plus a little resourcefulness can help keep one's head. I asked Terry to push my bottom so my arms would be free enough to thrust my whole body forward. It worked. I made it. Then I suggested to my wife to request the boy behind her to do the same and so on.

I caught myself regretting and almost blaming myself for being so stupid a to put myself in such a situation but finally after the terribly difficult obstacle course, the sense of achievement was simply exhilarating. I never felt so fulfilled in all my life.

The Cueva de Jusgado was very symbolic of life, for in life there are many obstacles and ignoring them won't solve the problem. One must think be confident, have faith in oneself and in God, be resourceful and continue moving forward to be triumphant. Our group, around 30 in all, was victorious as we all passed the obstacle course with flying colors.

I thought that was the end of the trail. I was about to text my friends to brag of my achievement when Gloria announced that we would now proceed to the Kalbaryo. We started a seemingly endless uphill climb over big stones and boulders following a most uneven arrangement of steps. A simple loss of balance or a wrong move could spell disaster. This time, Bert Noche was our guide. Thank God it, was a bit cloudy and not so hot at 10 a.m. Thank God, I did not get leg cramps.

Somewhere we passed by the Kweba ni Santo Niño with the image of the Child Jesus there surrounded by lighted candles. After a short prayer we continued our climb with candy in the mouth and taking sips of water every now and then.

At 11 a.m., panting and sweating, we reached the Tuktuk ng Kalbaryo. I thought that was the summit of Mt. Banahaw until Bert explained to me that we were only at the topmost portion of the foot of the Mystical Mountain.

There was one big, wooden cross and two small ones on each side. From there we could see the real Mt. Banahaw in front. We were all tired and our muscles ached. But to be on this site (especially because it was during Lent when we went to Mt. Banahaw) was not only a personal achievement, it was a sacrifice that we offered to Jesus as a humble gesture of our faith.

Mt. Banahaw, I learned, was composed of several mountains about 7,000 feet above sea level, occupying part of Laguna and part of the Quezon provinces. My experience was something to remember for a long, long time. I am optimistic that I will still have another chance to return to Mt. Banahaw. I'll visit other important spots such as Batang Kiling, Kweba ng Dolorosa, Kweba ng Virgen de la Paz, Kweba ng Inang Santisima Kasama ang Tubig ng Santisima, Kweba ng Nazareno, Palasyo ni Moses, Kweba ni Santa Agnes, Kweba ni San Isidro, Ang Ilog Jordan (ang Pansol sa Ama at Pansol sa Ina), Ang Kinabuhayan, Ang Kweba ng Koronang Bato and many others.

Jett E. Aviñante is in his 60s and a retired medical practitioner.

So near yet so forgotten

THE OTHER day, I read with much interest a heartwarming article about bringing electricity to a remote village in Apayao. It makes us feel good to know that children in that distant community are now able to study at night. We are happy for them. Perhaps, one or more among the children will be so fired up by this opportunity and grow into an outstanding member of our society.

While we cheer for that remote village in Apayao, we are deeply saddened by adverse conditions existing in Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal. Macabud is a large barangay near Metro Manila at the back of La Mesa Dam. On a 4-wheel-drive vehicle when unpaved dirt roads are dry and passable, Macabud proper is only 15 minutes from Payatas, Quezon City. When it rains and the road is muddy, Macabud is totally inaccessible. Some of our farmer-neighbors have died in accidents while transporting their products to Quezon City during the rainy season. You can just imagine the hardship of schoolchildren and teachers from far-flung parts of the barangay—going to school and back to their homes on muddy roads and flooded streams.

On top of its being inaccessible half of the year, it is in total darkness throughout the year, for this backyard of Metro Manila has yet to experience the wonders of electricity.

In the immediate neighboring areas to the north of Macabud that are in the province of Bulacan, communities and farmlands are connected with all-weather roads. Many have electricity.

Objectively, it is not correct for planners and policymakers not to give priority to the development of Macabud because it is host to more than 1,000 hectares of idle and undeveloped farmlands. These potential sources of food are only minutes away from the huge market of Metro Manila. If only for its proximity and productive promise, the farmers in Macabud certainly deserve the attention and assistance of the government.

I understand that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has ample funding for farm to market roads. It will be good for the DAR to immediately look into the case of Macabud, for how can the DAR serve the remote areas when this backyard of Metro Manila remains in the Jurassic age?

—PIO C. FORTUNO,
78 Visayas Ave., Quezon City

Health over convenience

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is one of my favorite public officials because of his style of leadership and his determination to challenge the culture of mediocrity that has long been in our system. I salute him for transforming Marikina into one of the cleanest cities in the country. Despite the criticisms against him, he was able to instill civic consciousness and discipline among his constituents. Today you will not see a single Marikeño throwing garbage anywhere.

As a Marikeño, I am proud that our former mayor has been given a chance to prove his capacity in a higher office. However, I was deeply disappointed by his current move to remove or transfer the trees growing on some roads and highways, specifically those on Katipunan Avenue. This is not so much a question of sentimental value as a matter of the people's right to live a healthy life. Trees provide us clean air and protection from the heat of the sun.

Fernando may have his own reasons for widening the roads. This is intended to ease traffic in the area. But I believe that the issue of health is more important than mere traffic problems. This is one time when we have to choose what will bring the greater good.

—MELANIE M. REYES,
138 M.H. del Pilar St.,
Calumpang, Marikina City

Using Bacani's case for political ends?

AS soon as Bishop Teodoro Bacani came under attack because of alleged sexual harassment of his secretary, government officials and politicians of all sorts rushed to his rescue by making public statements in defense of the good bishop. These statements, even if they are in favor, are of no use either to Bacani or the Church. It only serves their own political interests.

Does the principle of Separation of Church and State not apply both ways, not only when it affects the State but also when it concerns the Church? The President of the Philippines has no business coming out with a public statement in his favor—even three times over—and neither has Erap or Ping Lacson or Imee Marcos, of all people. Media should be aware of this principle when they make their front-page headlines.

Bishop Bacani and the Church have the right to be left alone to face this crisis and resolve it within its own ranks. I hope Rene Saguisag would agree also.

—ARNOLD VAN VUGT,
Horeb Center,
Cagayan de Oro City

UP comelec authorities clarify poll issues

THE ELECTION of the members of the board of directors of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) Inc. culminated last June 16 with the canvassing of the votes on the same date. Twenty-three seats are at stake in the electoral exercise. From among the elected board members will come the president of the UPAA who, in turn, will sit as an ex officio voting member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines System.

Contesting the polls are two groups of candidates. One is led by UP Los Baños alumna Nelia Teodoro-Gonzales while the other is headed by UP Law alumnus Domingo A. Santiago Jr. A number of independent candidates are also in the running.

Alumni participation has been noted to be unprecedented. In view of recent events which have put the election in a public light, there is a need to publish certain matters in order to correct any wrong impressions that might have been created by some publications.

First: There have been press statements that the comelec has been inclined to favor candidates from the Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity and the Sigma Delta Sorority running under one group. The fact is both groups carry members of Upsilon and Sigma Delta in their lineup. Thus, the fact that two members of the comelec are Upsilonians should not cast doubt on their ability to deliberate and decide independently of their fraternity affiliation.

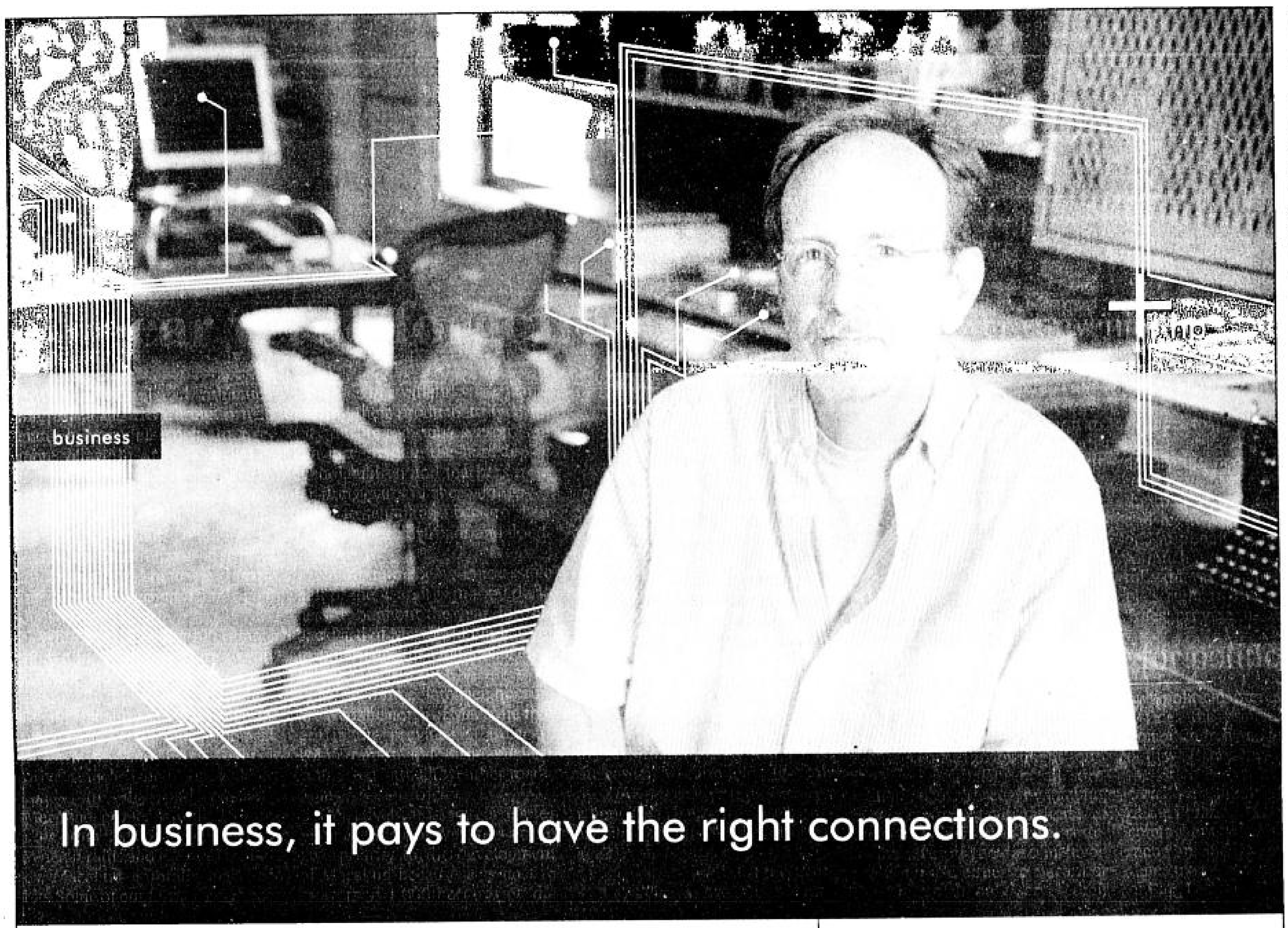
Second: The composition of the comelec was never designed to assure the victory of any particular camp. Its members were appointed by the UPAA Board of Directors as early as November 2002 in accordance with its bylaws. The composition was known to all the candidates even before the election campaign officially began. No formal protest or petition categorically demanding the resignation or inhibition of the members of the committee has been filed by any candidate. It was only when the committee ruled to the dissatisfaction of one group of candidates that the latter questioned the composition. This has failed to take into consideration that on a number of occasions involving material issues, the committee had also ruled against the group allegedly favored.

Third: At the heart of the election rules are the requirements that the status of the UP alumni must be verified by the UPAA Secretariat and that the former must pay their membership dues before April 15, 2003 before they may qualify as electors. For purposes of the election, the committee never allowed anyone to pay his dues after April 15, 2003. Moreover, in no instance has a representative been allowed to obtain a ballot for a qualified elector unless there was a written authorization. These fundamental rules make it almost impossible for election fraud to be committed.

Fourth: The canvassing of votes was originally set for May 31, 2003. However, a few days before said date, the group led by Gonzales sued the members of the committee in their individual capacities before the Regional Trial Court in Quezon City. At the end of the initial hearing, both groups agreed to reset the canvassing to June 16, 2003 unless reset anew for good reason. Clearly, the resetting was by virtue of the agreement reached by the candidates and not by reason of dilatory tactic of the committee.

Summing up, as in any set of rules prescribed by human beings to govern an activity of fellow human beings, the rules governing the UPAA election are far from perfect. Thus, the committee is open to the idea of improving on these rules but only after the election. So long as the rules are in place and are essentially fair, and the parties have consented, either expressly or tacitly, to let the election be governed by the existing rules, the committee will enforce them without fear or favor and always in accordance with the well-established doctrine in election law that doubts must always be resolved in favor of suffrage.

—VICTOR C. AVECILLA,
UPAA Committee on Elections,
University of the Philippines
Alumni Association,
Ang Bahay ng Alumni,
UP Diliman, Quezon City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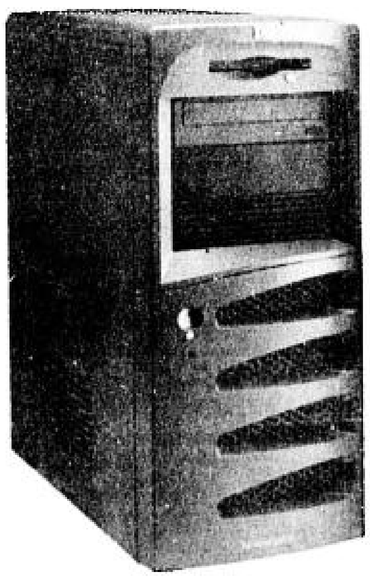

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US troops scour Baghdad after blasts, ambushes

BAGHDAD—Scores of heavily armed US troops swept through central Baghdad on Tuesday, sealing off roads and searching houses, after two mysterious explosions in the city and a spate of deadly ambushes in tense towns nearby.

The troops blocked streets with armored vehicles in a district near the banks of the Tigris river next to the sprawling Republican Guard palace complex, which once housed Saddam Hussein's elite fighters and is now the headquarters of the US-led administration trying to impose order in Iraq.

Soldiers said they had seized several weapons during house-to-house searches. A two-week amnesty for Iraqis to hand in heavy weapons ended on Sunday, and anyone caught with illegal firearms now faces a fine and up to a year in jail.

One woman told soldiers that several people in the district were former supporters of Saddam's Baath party.

"Six or seven houses in my street are inhabited by Baathists. They have machineguns and other weapons," she said.

"They shoot in the air at night and we can't sleep."

US forces launched a new mission on Sunday, Operation Desert Scorpion, to hunt for pro-Saddam guerrillas blamed for several deadly attacks on checkpoints and convoys in Baghdad and the restive towns to the north and west of the capital.

US Central Command said the operation was "designed to isolate and defeat remaining pockets of resistance that are seeking to delay the transition to a peaceful and stable Iraq."

By late Monday, 156 people had been detained in 11 raids in Baghdad, it said. Troops seized 121 rifles, four machineguns, two submachineguns, 19 pistols, 18 rocket-propelled grenades, 31 pounds of explosives and some chemical protective masks.

In 36 raids around Tikrit—Saddam's home town—and Kirkuk, US forces detained 215 people, Centcom said. Troops also performed "humanitarian fuel escort missions."

The US military says Operation Desert Scorpion aims to win hearts and minds as well as hunt die-hard Saddam loyalists. The mission involves humanitarian aid as well as raids.

But many Iraqis say US raids have been heavy handed, with houses ransacked and civilians assaulted. A growing number say they want occupying forces to leave Iraq as soon as possible.

Around 40 US soldiers have been killed in hostile attacks and ambushes since the start of May, mostly in Baghdad and two nearby areas—to the west around Ramadi and Falluja, and to the north around Balad, Baquba and Tikrit.

Late on Monday, a car exploded in northwest Baghdad at an intersection where US troops had manned a checkpoint until half an hour before. The car was torn apart, and residents said a woman and a young girl had been killed. There was no explanation for what caused the blast. *Reuters*

A NEWLY-WED Iraqi Mandean couple laugh together after their marriage on the Tigris river in Baghdad June 8. Iraqi devotees of an obscure religion who take John the Baptist as their central figure perform virginity tests on their brides and take a dip in the murky Tigris river every Sunday to purify the soul. REUTERS

WHO opens global meet on deadly SARS virus

KUALA LUMPUR—More than 1,000 scientists, doctors and government officials began a two-day conference here Tuesday in an attempt to find causes and cures for the mysterious and deadly SARS virus.

The conference has been organized by the World Health Organization, which has led global efforts to control what it calls the first major international epidemic of the 21st century.

"The purpose of this meeting is to review the scientific findings on SARS and examine whether current control measures are effective or not," said WHO regional director for Western Pacific Shigeru Omi.

"We will discuss whether SARS can be eradicated, see if there is an animal reservoir and see whether there is room for improvement of the current control measures."

Omi said in an opening address that the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome epidemic "is coming under control but the fight is by no means over."

"The global situation is getting better. We are monitoring four areas: Taiwan, Beijing, Hong Kong and Toronto. Only these areas remain, this is a tremendous improvement from the start of the outbreak."

But, he added: "SARS has not been defeated. We must be better prepared next time."

Much research needed to be done on the production of vaccines and anti-viral drugs and increasing the sensitivity of diagnostic tests, he said.

SARS has killed nearly 800 people and infected around 8,500 since it first emerged in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong in November last year.

Scientists have traced the illness to a new type of the coronavirus, which is from the family that causes the common cold, but a vaccine or cure for the illness is years away. *AFP*

Taiwan travel alert lifted

GENEVA—The UN health agency Tuesday canceled its warning against travel to Taiwan more than a month after it had put the Taiwanese capital on its places with a risk of spreading SARS infection.

The World Health Organization said its decision "follows vast improvements in case detection, infection control, and the tracing and follow-up of contacts that led to a steep drop in the daily number of new cases."

The move leaves Beijing, the Chinese capital, as the only area on the travel warning list.

WHO said it was still recommending continued vigilance in all areas in Taiwan which have seen transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome, but a WHO expert said the Taiwanese response had so far been exemplary.

"The SARS crisis in Taiwan has been taken very seriously at all levels, from the government and health care staff to the general public," said Dr. Cathy Roth, a WHO virologist who was in Taiwan in May to assess the need for a strengthened response.

She said the disease "stimulated vast and very rapid improvements" in health procedures in Taiwan, especially in the control of infection in hospitals and in collection of data and mobilizing the public. *AP*

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UN urges Iran to allow tougher nuclear checks

VIENNA—The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog called on Iran on Monday to accept strict inspection of its atomic program to help dispel fears that it is secretly developing nuclear weapons, as Washington alleges.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board members have received copies of a harsh report on Iran by agency chief Mohammed ElBaradei and will discuss it during a board meeting this week.

"The report points out that Iran has failed to report certain nuclear material and activities, and that corrective actions are being taken in cooperation with the Iranian authorities," ElBaradei told the board in a speech.

He urged Iran to sign an Additional Protocol with the IAEA granting inspectors wider access and more intrusive, short-notice inspections.

A spokesperson for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said Tehran might agree to sign it, but reiterated Iran's demands for access to nuclear technology in exchange.

"We have not yet decided about signing the Additional Protocol, but we are studying it with a positive view," spokesperson Khalil Mousavi said.

But Vienna-based diplomats interpreted Tehran as merely restating a position already rejected by the United States and some other countries.

"No state that entered into discussions with the IAEA on signing the Additional Protocol has done so on the basis of a bargaining arrangement," a senior Western diplomat said. Another called Tehran's statement "nothing new."

Without an Additional Protocol, the IAEA report said "the agency's ability to provide credible assurances regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear activities is limited."

Of 188 signatories of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 78 have approved the Additional Protocol and 32 have ratified it. Iran is a party to the NPT.

Kenneth Brill, US ambassador to the UN in Vienna, told reporters the IAEA report was "serious, sobering and thorough." "The board should speak with a very clear and firm voice in support of the agency's work and the need for Iran to answer the questions raised," Brill said.

The European Union was due on Monday to demand that Iran accept "urgently and unconditionally" tougher inspections of its nuclear program, linking compliance to a pending trade deal.

Russia's UN envoy in Vienna, Grigory Berdennikov, said he hoped the IAEA board statement would be balanced.

"The report speaks about some cases of failure to comply," he said. "We are not convinced that the conclusion about non-compliance with the NPT can be drawn at this time."

The report does not speak of "violation" or "non-compliance" but "failures to comply" with requirements on reporting about nuclear facilities and activities. *Reuters*

Gaza talks end in stalemate

GAZA—Egyptian mediators failed on Monday to persuade Palestinian militants to call a ceasefire with Israel to help salvage a US-backed peace "road map" battered by a week of violence.

Despite US appeals for restraint, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed an all-out assault on Hamas and ruled out concessions to the Palestinians unless they cracked down on the radical Islamic group.

"We cannot achieve a political arrangement, and certainly not a peace deal, when terror runs rampant," the right-wing former general told parliament in a nationally televised speech interrupted several times by hecklers.

Sharon had sat expressionless while opposition lawmakers on the left accused him of sabotaging the road map and legislators from the far right chided him for accepting the plan at all.

The latest developments cast further doubt on US efforts to prop up a Middle East peace plan launched less than two weeks ago at a summit led by US President George W. Bush and crippled since then by bloody attack and counter-attack.

Representatives of Hamas and other militant groups meeting in Gaza said they had demanded international guarantees for a halt to Israeli military strikes on their leaders before they would agree to stop their own attacks on Israelis. *Reuters*

CEREMONY OF THE GARTER
Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh lead the way down from Windsor Castle to St. George's Chapel, for the annual Ceremony of the Garter procession, June 16. The Garter is Britain's highest honor bestowed by the Queen on men and women for outstanding achievement and service to the nation. AFP

Nations sign anti-tobacco agreement

GENEVA—A total of 28 countries from around the world plus the European Commission lined up on Monday to endorse a landmark global anti-smoking treaty on the first day it was open for signature.

Officials behind the pact, which emerged in March after four years of hard negotiations at the World Health Organisation, said commitment appeared to be so high that the pact could be in force by the end of the year.

"I urge countries throughout the world to follow the example of those here today—to swiftly sign and then ratify this treaty," WHO Director-General Gro Harlem Brundtland, who steps down next month, said in a statement.

The former Norwegian prime minister, once a family doctor, had set attainment of a treaty against a scourge that kills some five million people a year as the centerpiece of her four-year term at the head of the UN agency.

The pact needs 40 signatures to be ratified by national legislatures before it becomes law in those countries. It will be open for signature at UN headquarters in New York until July 2004.

Countries signing at a special ceremony at WHO's Geneva headquarters, where the pact was approved by 190 nations at a key conference last month, ranged from Brazil, Botswana and Iran to Britain, New Zealand and Spain.

Absent were the United States, where the administration of President George W. Bush had opposed parts of the accord, particularly an advertising ban, and Germany and China, both heavy-smoking nations with high revenues from tobacco sales. *Reuters*

WATER CRISIS
Pakistani villagers from the Sindh province gather around a tube well to fetch water for their families, June 16. The women have to walk miles to get clean water. AP

Stars, fans pay final respects to Gregory Peck

LOS ANGELES—Movie stars rubbed shoulders with ordinary film fans on Monday as they paid final tribute to Gregory Peck, remembering him as one of the last heroes of Hollywood's golden era and a man symbolizing integrity on and off screen.

Close to 3,000 people turned out for an afternoon memorial service led by Roman Catholic Cardinal Roger Mahony at the newly built Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in downtown Los Angeles.

Peck, who was 87, died peacefully at his Los Angeles home last Thursday with his French-born wife of 48 years, Veronique, at his side.

"Gregory Peck did not have to act at being an extraordinary human being," Mahony said during his homily, recalling the actor's support for literacy programs and many other social causes. "Gregory Peck was a man of unique authenticity... of deep personal integrity."

The eulogy was delivered by actor Brock Peters, a longtime friend and co-star of Peck in his most famous movie, "To Kill a Mockingbird." Peters, now 75, played the unjustly accused black man Peck defended in his Oscar-winning signature performance as the idealistic Southern white lawyer Atticus Finch in the 1962 film about racial intolerance.

Peters recalled with affection being awakened by a phone call from Peck one Sunday morning welcoming him to the cast of the movie before the two had ever met.

"I was surprised and stunned," Peters recounted. "This was an idol of mine, both as an actor and person ... I'd only just been cast to play the role of Tom Robinson and suddenly found myself ear to ear ... voice to voice with Gregory Peck—and I dropped the telephone."

Peters said the phone call spoke volumes about Peck's inner graciousness. "In art there is compassion, in compassion there is humanity and in humanity there is generosity and love.

Gregory Peck gave us these attributes in full measure," Peters told the congregation.

Earlier in the day, Peck's remains were laid to rest during a private interment attended by close relatives in the mausoleum beneath the cathedral. Stars and members of the public later filed past the polished limestone crypt, engraved with the actor's name, a cross and the dates of his birth and death.

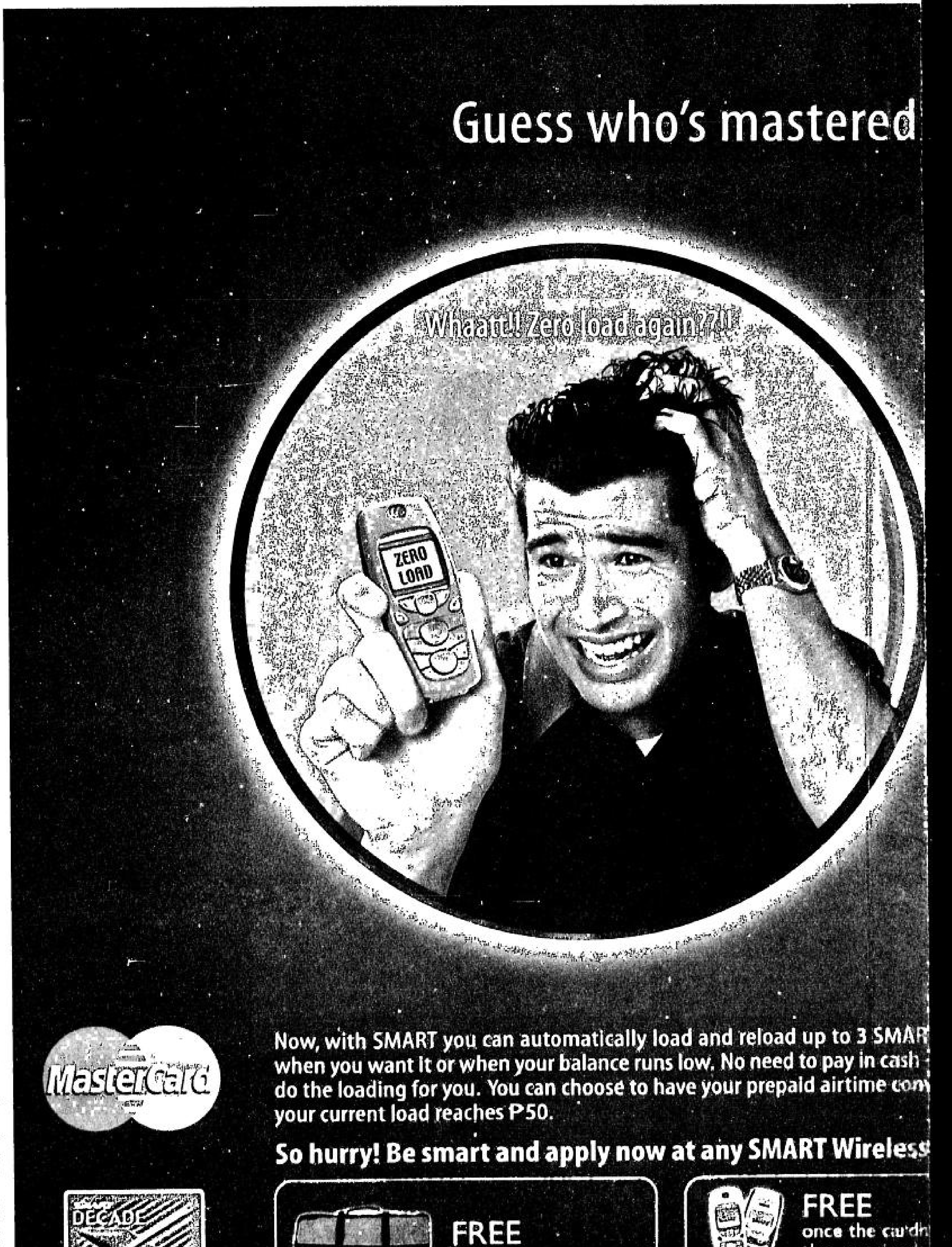
Among the celebrities attending the service were Lauren Bacall, Harrison Ford, Calista Flockhart, Harry Belafonte, Michael Jackson, Anjelica Huston, television producer Norman Lear and actor Jimmy Smits, who co-starred with Peck in one of his last films, 1989's "Old Gringo."

Peck's children—Stephen, Anthony, Cecilia and Carey—spoke briefly during the service, consisting of prayers, hymns and a special video salute to the actor known for his gentlemanly, upright demeanor, quiet dignity and compassion for the underdog.

In one clip from a question-and-answer session late in life, Peck was asked how he most wanted to be remembered.

"I would like be remembered as a good husband and father," he said at first. "As a professional, I'd like to be thought of as a storyteller."

The tall, square-jawed actor with a deep, sonorous voice made more than 50 films in a career spanning six decades, his most memorable including "Roman Holiday" with Audrey Hepburn, "Gentleman's Agreement," "The Guns of Navarone" and a rare turn as the villain in "The Boys from Brazil." *Reuters*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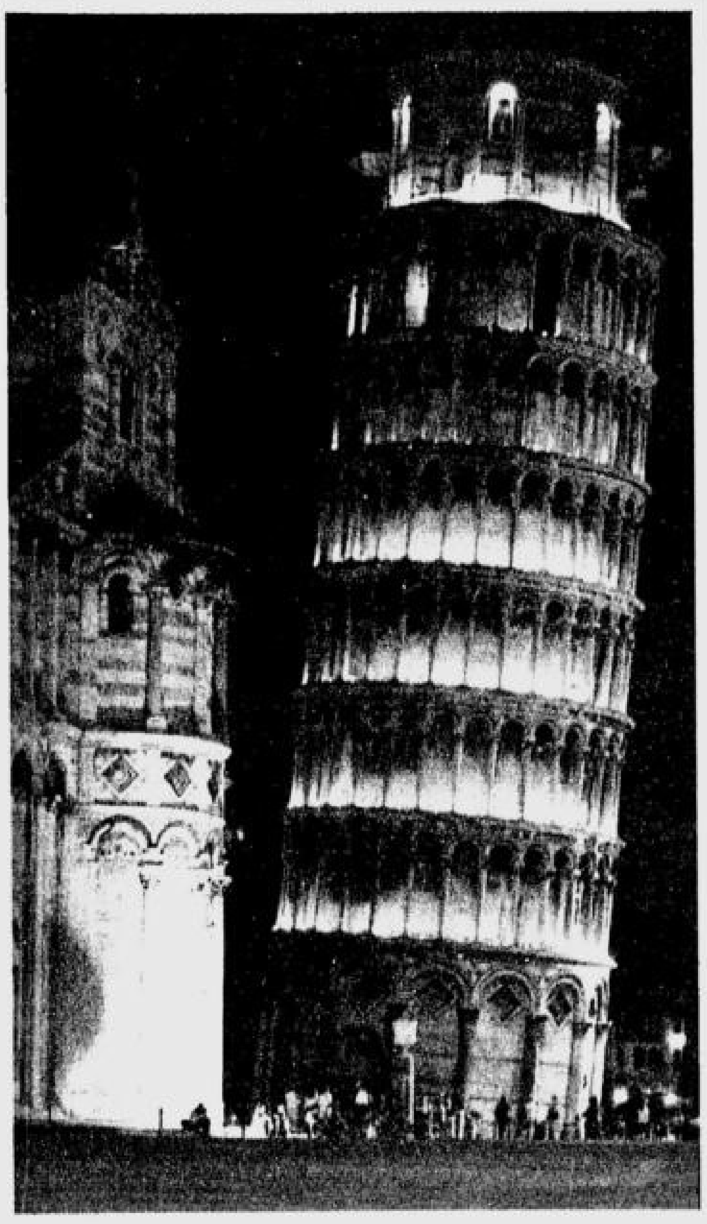


CANDLE-LIT PISA

The famous leaning tower of Pisa is lit up during the traditional "Luminara di San Ranieri" (Illuminations of St. Ranieri), in Pisa, central Italy, June 16. Pisa folks have been lighting some 70,000 candles on this day for centuries to honor their ancient patron, Ranieri degli Scaccieri. REUTERS

SEOUL—North Korea warned Tuesday that a blockade by the United States and its allies against the communist state could lead to war and Japan would not be safe from "the flames of war."

The warning came as the United States and its regional allies, most notably Japan and Australia, have begun cracking down on North Korean trade in illicit drugs, weapons and counterfeit money—believed to be key sources of hard currency for Pyongyang to buttress its regime and its suspected nuclear weapons programs.

Pyongyang's main state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun on Tuesday charged that the United States is "laying an international siege to the North and putting a blockade against it as a premeditated scheme to start a new war on the Korean Peninsula."

North Korea will take "physical retaliation," including "all means and methods an independent country can take," once it concludes that the recent moves by the allies violate its sovereignty, Rodong said in a commentary monitored by South Korean news agency Yonhap.

"There is no guarantee that this blockade will not lead to such a serious condition as a full-scale war," said Rodong. "If war breaks out between the North and the United States, it will not be limited to the Korean Peninsula but all the areas where aggressors are lurking will become our targets."

North Korea accused Japan of turning itself into the "base camp for US aggression against Korea" and cooperating with what it called a US plan to "stifle" North Korea.

"Given this background, once flames of war erupt on the Korean Peninsula, they could quickly spread to Japan," Rodong said.

North Korea traditionally churns out sabre-rattling rhetoric when its relations with the outside world worsen.

Japan has been tightening safety and customs inspections of North Korean ships long suspected of smuggling missile parts and narcotics between the two countries. In the past week, they have detained one cargo ship and blocked another from docking for safety violations.

The move came after a North Korean defector told US lawmakers last month that a North Korean ferry linking the two countries was used to smuggle missile parts.

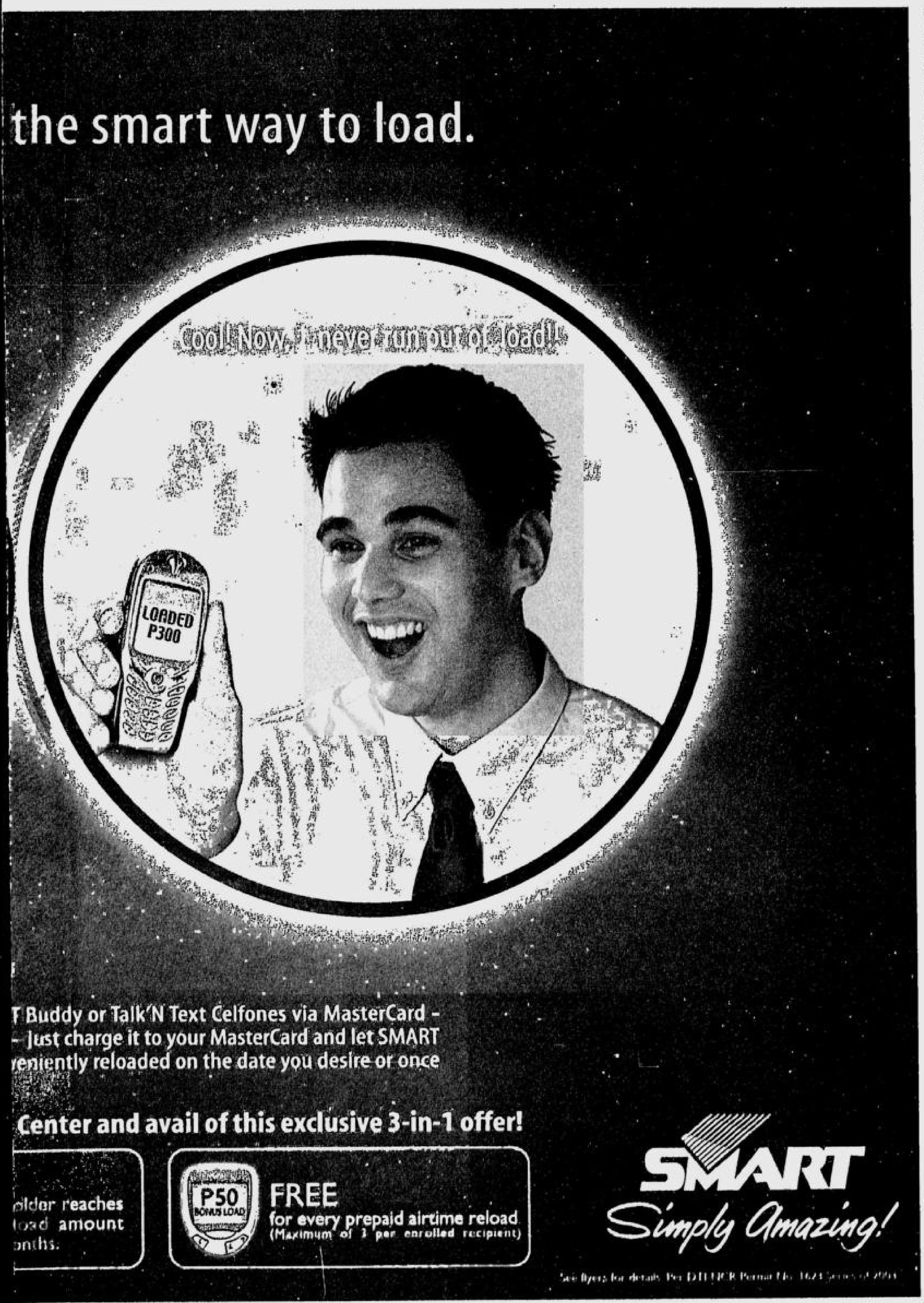
Japan allows trade with North Korea on an informal basis, though the two countries have no diplomatic relations. Last year, 147 North Korean ships made over 1,300 port calls in Japan.

In a joint statement in Hawaii last week, US, Japanese and South Korean officials expressed concern about the North's narcotics trafficking and counterfeiting, and said they discussed cooperation to stop them. They also agreed to seek a peaceful resolution to the eight-month effort to get the North to drop any nuclear weapons programs.

In the past few days, both Japanese and South Korean officials have said that intensifying pressure on North Korea would force it to accept a US offer for multilateral talks on halting its suspected nuclear weapons programs.

In April, Australian authorities raided a North Korean-owned ship and charged its crew with aiding and abetting the trafficking of heroin.

Tensions in the region have been mounting since October, when US officials said North Korea admitted having a covert nuclear program. *AP*



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3 Calabarzon cops escape drug test

CANLUBANG, Laguna—At least three police officers in the Calabarzon Region have gone on "absence without official leave" (Awol) allegedly to escape the mandatory drug test among policemen, according to Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal.

He did not identify those who had gone on Awol but said that one belonged to the regional police team while the other two were from the Batangas police force.

Caringal also disclosed yesterday that three Batangas policemen were found positive of drug use in the initial drug test.

He said at least 35 Cavite policemen underwent the same initial drug test yesterday.

"This campaign against policemen suspected of using illegal drugs will continue without leaving any room for *bata-bata* system," he told the INQUIRER.

He warned that no policemen could escape the heat of the campaign to weed the ranks of undesirable cops.

The regional police chief said he had also ordered the different police chiefs in Quezon to escort at least 39 policemen from different stations to the laboratory. "These cops did not submit themselves during the initial drug screening. But I want them to undergo the drug test because they are the cops with the most number of reports as suspected illegal drug users," Caringal said.

Earlier, he said an average of 40 policemen in every province in Calabarzon had been suspected of using illegal drugs.

During the initial police drug tests conducted in Quezon last week, almost 100 cops submitted themselves to the mandatory examination.

Caringal reiterated that the initial batch of policemen subjected to drug test were only those reported as suspected users.

Further laboratory examination and serious investigation will have to be conducted on those with links to syndicates, he said.

The police official said they have been monitoring the long coastlines of the region, particularly those of Tayabas and Lamon Bays in Quezon, for any resurgence of drug smuggling.

"They are the conventional drop points of these drug syndicates because of long and uninhabited coastlines. Our policemen in these coastal areas are closely coordinating with the local officials, particularly in the barangay level, in the monitoring," he said.

He identified the island town of Jomalig in northern Quezon as one of those reported to be drop points for illegal drugs.

In October 2001, government authorities confiscated from the mayor of Panukulan, Quezon fronting the vast Pacific Ocean, at least 498 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, packed in ready-to-sell one-kilo packs worth about P1 billion. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Army colonel grilled on Mindoro mauling incident

THE FORMER commanding officer of the 204th Infantry Brigade based in Mindoro spoke up for the master sergeant linked to a mauling incident in Barangay Tambong, Gloria on April 20.

Task Force Mindoro, the body formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the killing of human rights leader Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy, is looking into the relation of the mauling incident to their deaths.

In a fact-finding inquiry held at the Department of Justice Compound in Manila on Monday, Col. Jovito Palparan Jr. said he doubted the Barangay Tambong residents' identification of Caigas as part of the mauling incident.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, who called for the inquiry as head of the task force, asked Palparan if he was defending Caigas.

But Palparan said he was only saying that Caigas "should be given a chance to say his side."

Calida said Caigas was given all the time to explain his side but failed to appear on various occasions.

Distrust

"He (Caigas) could not trust your (Calida's) group," Palparan said. Caigas also feared that he would be arrested when he learned that the driver of Col. Juanito Gomez was "arrested and detained (by the task force) without a warrant."

Calida, however, clarified that the task force "invited the driver through a subpoena" and that he willingly went with them to Manila for inquiry and in the presence of Gomez.

Although Calida said four barangay officials and three policemen who were involved in the mauling already identified Caigas, Palparan maintained that to his knowledge, military men under his brigade were not part of the incident.

He also claimed that he did not know of Caigas' warrant of arrest for robbery.

Palparan also denied that the military was behind the death threats received by Calida and other members of the task force.

Calida warned Palparan that they already knew who was behind the death threats and that they were not threatened by such acts.

Col. Fernando Mesa, acting commanding officer of the 204th IB, was also summoned to appear before the hearing but failed to appear.

Lawyer Edre Olalia, who represented the survivor-witnesses, questioned whether the military men taking pictures and video footages of the survivor-witnesses, relatives and supporters of Marcellana and Gumanoy were ordered by the military officials.

Harassment

Around two trucks of military men, including a truck of policemen and several on motorcycles, were roaming in and out the DOJ Compound where the inquiry was taking place.

The military officials denied ordering this.

Although the inquiry was a "public hearing," only the witnesses, relatives and supporters were allowed to enter the compound.

Police even prepared their dispersal formation, lining up with their shields and truncheons in front of the compound gates.

"Even in such hearings, the military is continuing to harass us," said Irein Cuasay, secretary general of Karapatan-Mindoro Oriental.

In a press release, the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP) said the task force "should dig deeper on the conspiracy behind the double murder of Gumanoy and Marcellana . . ."

The group urged the task force to file a double murder case against Caigas and immediately arrest and jail him as he could not say who the brains behind the double murder was.

"It would be unbelievable if Colonel Palparan will insist that he has no knowledge of Caigas being a fugitive from justice since 1994 . . . And given that MSgt. Caigas was actively reporting his overt and covert operations directly to Colonel Palparan it would be next to impossible if Colonel Palparan had no knowledge and did not issue the death warrant against Eden and Eddie," Danny Beltran, EMJP secretary general said in the statement. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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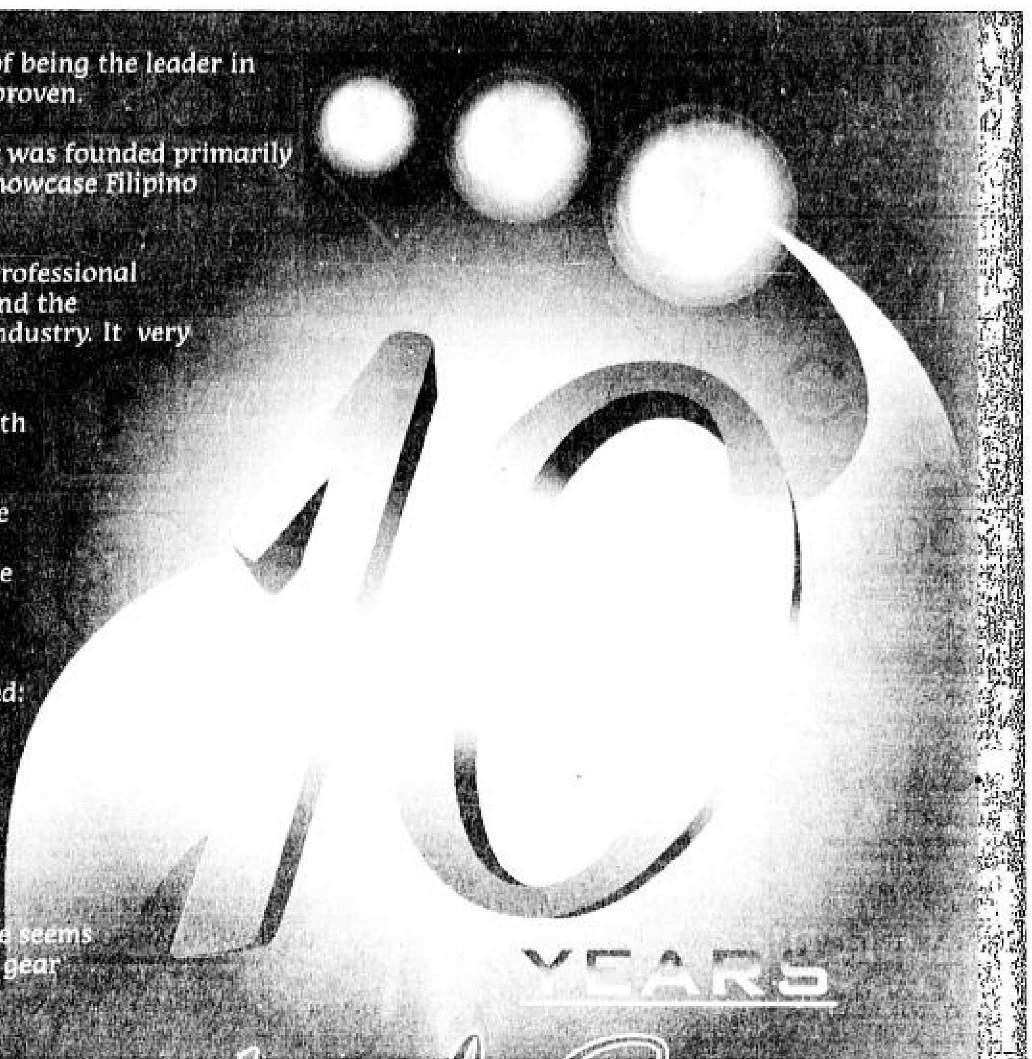
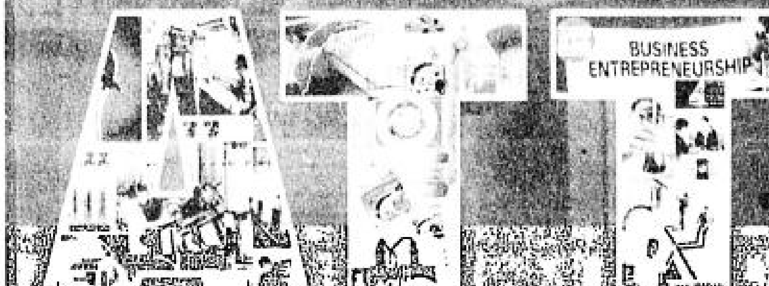
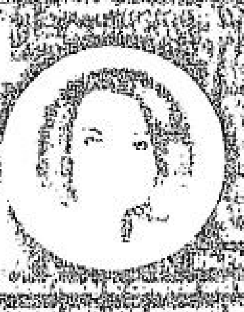




ATT A Decade of Success



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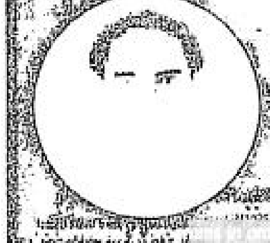

... in order to provide a unified direction in attaining quality life and good health for our people.

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On behalf of the Quezon City government, I extend my heartfelt greetings and felicitations to the management and staff of ATT-AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY, INCORPORATED, on the occasion of your 10th anniversary. You are the pioneer in water treatment and purification long before other companies, after realizing the importance of clean drinking water in this time and age, followed your footsteps. Being hundred percent Filipino-owned entity, you prove to one and all abilities to promulgate the necessary adjustments for the sake of our society. Not only that, being part of the global arena in water technology manifests our common desire and aspiration to make Philippine-made products internationally renowned and compatible with the world's best. I am confident your ingenuity and innovativeness will be a source of inspiration for other manufacturing companies to ... their products for our local label to be always sought here and elsewhere. Congratulations again and may your tribe increase. MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

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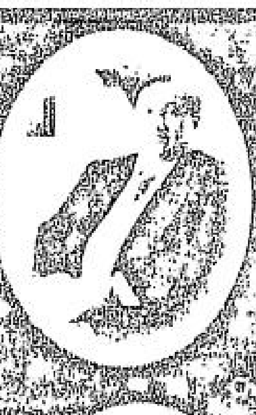

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NPA rebs burn ₱2M worth of PNOC equipment

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—At least 30 fully armed suspected rebels stormed the government-owned Philippine National Oil Corp. (PNOC) drilling facilities in a hinterland village here on Saturday and burned down a crane.

The incident occurred at Rig 8 of the Mahanagdong sector of PNOC-Energy Development Corp.'s Leyte Geothermal Field (LGPF) at the height of tropical storm 'Egay.'

Senior Supt. Arcadio Lelis, Ormoc City police director, said the armed men identified themselves as members of the Mt. Amendewin Leyte Front Command of the New People's Army.

The armed men arrived in the area early Saturday and ordered the crane operator, Jesse Tahil, to get out of the crane, as they would be burning it down.

Lelis said Tahil initially refused to leave the crane until he was told that they would set him in fire.

Tahil told police investigators that the communist rebels asked him first what would be the extent of the damage if they burned the geothermal rig.

Rig 8, which is drilling a geothermal well that yields 10 megawatts fed to the California Energy (a build-transfer-operate partner of PNOC) plant.

When Tahil told them it would be disastrous to burn Rig 8, the rebels contented themselves with pouring two gallons of gasoline on the crane instead. The armed men then set the crane on fire and thereafter left the area under cover of the thick vegetation.

However, the crane was not totally burned because of heavy rains spawned by Egay.

The rebel group took several radio handsets and its base, said Lelis.

The PNOC-EDC, in a statement, said the rebels took with them several rig and communications equipment, SSB radio, A VHF transceiver, rig maintenance tools, a medicine box and a.38 revolver.

The damaged crane and all the equipment taken by the armed men had a total value of over P2 million.

PNOC-EDC Chair Sergio Apostol said he was alarmed by the incident since the Tongonan geothermal facilities provide stable power to Visayas and some parts of Luzon.

Zambo police chief denies helping suspected killer of journalist escape

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 401 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

PAGADIAN CITY—In an attempt to save his skin, a former police chief of Zamboanga del Sur denied responsibility for the escape of the suspect in the murder last year of journalist Edgar Damalerio.

Senior Supt. Pedrito Reyes, former police chief of Zamboanga del Sur, is facing a criminal case before the Ombudsman for the military for alleged "infidelity in the custody of prisoner evasion through negligence."

He is also facing administrative charges filed before the Directorate for Investigation Division Management in Camp Crame over the escape of PO1 Guillermo Wapile, primary suspect in the slay of Damalerio, managing editor of weekly newspaper The Zamboanga Scribe and commentator of RPN9 dxKP.

If found guilty, Reyes who retired from police service last May, would not be able to get his retirement benefits and may face imprisonment.

Reyes, in his counter-affidavit, blamed Wapile's escape on his subordinate, Supt. Bheti Hadjula, head of the 905th police mobile group.

He said Wapile was reassigned to the 905th mobile group and was restricted within the compound of Camp Abelon.

Reyes said he could not personally supervise the activities of Wapile considering "the bulk of work I have to attend to" being the former police chief of Zamboanga del Sur.

He said that he entrusted the suspect to the supervision of Hadjula because the latter "has sufficient men to effectively carry out the order of restrictive supervision of Wapile."

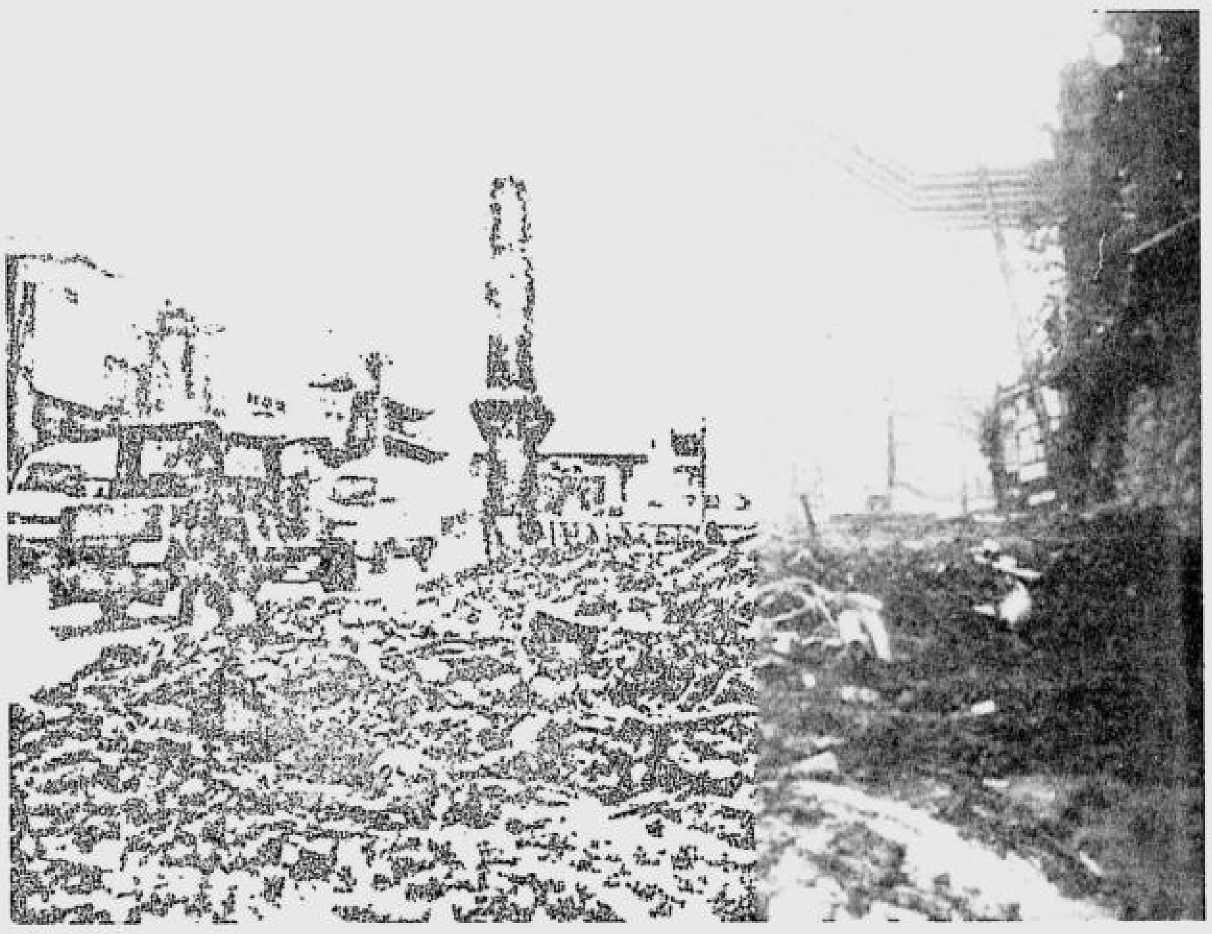
Wapile escaped on Jan. 27, two days before the court issued a warrant for his arrest.

Damalerio's widow, Gemma, also filed charges against Hadjula.

She said with the "implication of Hadjula, it has become clear that Reyes did not do it alone."

Meanwhile, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla, police chief for Western Mindanao, said they were verifying reports that Wapile has joined the Kuratong Baleleng gang in Ozamiz City.

But Varilla said the reports still have to be confirmed. *Hernan de la Cruz with a report from Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



LANDSLIDE IN BAGUIO CITY TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Mud and other debris block the Halsema Highway in Baguio City at the height of tropical storm "Egay." The highway leads to La Trinidad town, a major source of vegetable produce in Benguet.

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It's one teacher per 84 students in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY—The first day of school year has provided activist teachers with one "alarming" fact: The government can only afford to hire one teacher for every 84 pupils in the Cordillera.

"The condition of the public school system is such that (when school opens), we are faced with many of the problems that we have come to regard as common ones—overcrowded classrooms, shortage of books, and lack of teachers. The only thing new is that (the educational system) is getting worse," said Erlinda Palaganas, Baguio president of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), in a statement.

The ACT said the Department of Education has started to rely on teachers hired on contractual basis to cope with a high enrolment figure, but recent budget-cuts cost the Cordillera 53 teachers, who have been handling multi-grade classes. Multi-grade classes lump grades one to three pupils in one classroom period to cope with classroom shortages.

"As of 2002, there were already 976 contractual teachers in the region (based on the 2002 DepEd national report)," Palaganas said. "Being contractual teachers, their security of tenure is always threatened."

The ACT said only 99 teachers have been employed to tutor 3,711 elementary pupils. The group also said 891 teachers were hired to accommodate 29,474 students enrolled in combination classes, or fused batch periods, which DepEd resorts to address classroom shortages.

The DepEd said it is phasing out multi-grade classes. "It is better if we have single grade classes to be more efficient. The multi-grade classes are innovations prompted by budget shortage, but we are hoping to see an end to this system soon. We just need to see how much more students actually enrolled (for free elementary subsidy)," said Dr. Modesta Bastian, chief of the elementary schools division in the Cordillera.

The DepEd projected an increase of 1 percent in enrolment this year, representing 220,873 new pupils.

Palaganas said the 2003 national budget allocated only P104.4 billion for education.

She cited a joint ACT and Ibon Foundation study, which concluded that a fresh infusion of P27.6 billion could cover the government deficit in the education sector. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Brownouts seen in Panay; power rates cut in Bacolod

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ELECTRIC consumers on Panay Island will experience brownouts, but those in Bacolod can expect less cost for their power consumption.

Starting June 20, brownouts will hit parts of Panay Island when the National Power Corp. conducts repairs on its power facilities on the island.

The first series of brownouts will be felt on June 20-24 when the transformer of Napocor's power barge in Barrio Obrero in La Paz District are repaired.

Cora Doreza, Napocor communications officer in Panay, said the repair of the 18-year-old barge is expected to prevent leaks that could lead to serious damage.

The 20-megawatt barge will be shut down, which will reduce power supplied to electric cooperatives on the island. Napocor supplies electricity to the Iloilo Electric Cooperative (Ileco-I), Ileco-II, Ileco-III, Aklan Electric Cooperative, Capiz Electric Cooperative, Guimaras Electric Cooperative and Antique Electric Cooperative.

Doreza said the brownouts would be "minimal" and would affect areas supplied by the electric cooperatives ranging from a sitio to an entire village. The areas affected will depend on which areas the cooperatives will shut down to distribute the power allocated by the Napocor.

The brownouts would be felt between 6 to 9 p.m. during the peak of power demand.

On June 27-29, the Napocor will conduct maintenance repairs on the transformer of its substation in Pan-it-an town, Capiz. The temporary shut down of the sub-station will cause power interruptions in parts of Capiz, Aklan and the northern parts of Antique and Iloilo provinces.

Doreza stressed that the expected power interruptions are not due to the expected power crisis that President Macapagal-Arroyo and Energy officials said would affect the island starting December.

Aside from power barge 104, Panay Island is supplied by a generating plant in Dingle town in Iloilo and power barge 103 in Estancia town, some 135 km north of Iloilo City.

Panay needs 105.22 MW, a demand higher than its total power generation capacity of 47.8 MW.

The shortage has been offset by the 63 MW brought to Panay through submarine cables from Negros Island, which is part of the Visayas power grid that is supplied by the geothermal plant in Leyte.

The deficit is expected to increase as the power demand increases to about 133 MW this year, 141.8 MW next year and 173.6 MW in 2005.

A 100-MW coal-fired power plant will be constructed in Antique this year by the Korean Electric Power Co. to help address the shortage.

Senate President Franklin Drilon has recently announced the transfer of a 110-MW power plant from Batangas City to Panay Island.

Power rate reduction

In Bacolod City, the Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative (Noceco) is reducing its power rates by P0.1978 per kilowatt-hour in its July billing.

Two other electric cooperatives in the province are also applying to bring down their rates.

The Noceco rate reduction is based on a provisional authority granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission after the government condoned its P181 million loan, Noceco manager Lamberto Canlas told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Noceco applied in January for a reduction in rates and condonation of its loans in compliance with Section 60 of Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act and Executive Order No. 119, Canlas said.

Canlas said that with the grant by ERC of the provisional authority to reduce the rate due to the writing off of debts, Noceco's basic rate would be reduced to P3.3137 per kWh from P3.5115.

Noceco has 74,000 consumers and covers Pulupandan to Hinobaan in southern Negros Occidental, Canlas said.

Noceco assured its consumers of more efficient and better service under its Performance Improvement Program, Canlas said.

Danilo Davila, manager of the Victorias Manapla Cadiz Rural Electric Cooperative, said Vresco has also applied for the writing off of its more than P160 million loan and a rate reduction of 21 centavos.

Benedicto Peralta, Central Negros Electric Cooperative manager, said Noceco has asked ERC to condone P309 million in loan and for a 10-centavo reduction in its rate. *With Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Boracay priest slams Gordon for pushing casino

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—The parish priest of Boracay Island has scored Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for pushing for the opening of a casino on the island resort despite opposition from residents.

"Why always think of money and so-called development projects first and not the welfare of the people?" said Fr. Isauro David of the Holy Rosary Parish, the lone parish on the island.

David said the opening of the casino will affect Boracay residents "not the Secretary and other supporters of the casino."

Gordon has voiced support for the opening of the casino, a project of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). He said he was just being pragmatic and that the benefits of having a casino on the island "far outweigh" the concerns of the residents.

The Tourism Secretary said the income derived from the casino could be used to improve the facilities of the island. He said he found the concerns of the residents "strange" because the casino would be exclusively for tourists.

"What is strange with being concerned of the values of and culture of the people? We just want a gambling-free island," David told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. He said to be pragmatic is to "first uphold the people's welfare."

The casino to be put up at the Club Panoly, a high-end resort in a secluded area in Barangay Yapac, is being supported by officials of Malay town, which has jurisdiction over Boracay.

The Aklan provincial board has passed a resolution against the casino but Gov. Florencio Miraflores said he would not block the project if the municipal government supports it. "It's their (Malay officials) call and we will respect their decision," the governor said in an earlier interview.

David, also the social action director of the Diocese of Kalibo, has challenged local officials to support the people's sentiments.

Aside from sending letters to President Macapagal-Arroyo to shelve the casino project, residents have staged protest rallies against the proposed casino.

Last month, the village councils of Yapac, Manoc-Manoc and Balabag have also passed a joint resolution opposing the casino, according to David.

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BEACON PROJECT

17 Palawan villages to get electricity

NARRA, Palawan—Seventeen barangays in Palawan will soon get electricity after the power giant Mirant Philippines Corp. switched on its power lines in Barangay Batang-batang on Sunday.

The energization of the 17 villages is part of Mirant's nationwide project dubbed Beacon or Barangay Electrification Assistance for Countryside Development.

Of the 17 villages, seven are in Puerto Princesa City.

These are Barangays Bacungan, Lucbuan, Manalo, Maoyon, Maruyugon, Salvacion and Sta. Cruz.

Other barangays outside Puerto Princesa, aside from Batang-batang are Abongan, Aporawan, Barake, Bato, Caguisan, Magara, New Cuyo, Panitian and Tinagong Dagat.

Initially, Mirant targeted 33 barangays for electrification but the number was scaled down to 17 because of financial constraints, said Greg Romualdez, Mirant manager for external affairs.

The project is part of Mirant's corporate social responsibility.

Mirant allocated P1 billion nationwide on the initiative conducted in cooperation with the Department of Energy, the National Electrification Administration (Nea), various local governments and cooperatives for the project, he said.

Project completion is expected July and it is expected to provide access to electricity to some 1,000 far-flung barangays all over the country, benefiting 33 provinces and about 1.5 million individuals are expected to have electricity when project Beacon is completed this July, Romualdez said.

"We believe that providing power to non-energized barangays in Palawan will help improve the quality of life of residents and pave the way for progress," he said.

Narra Mayor Lucena Demaala expressed her thanks to the agencies that made possible the electrification of her barangay.

"Barangay Batang-batang is one of the depressed barangays in Narra. We are glad that these people (who made the electrification possible) gave notice to this very small barangay. We hope that with this electrification it will also introduce more development in this barangay," Demaala said.

Romualdez added that electricity would give rise to industries and provide the means for the improvement of the livelihood of the residents.

The electrification of the barangays was made possible through a memorandum of agreement by Mirant with the DoE, Nea, the Provincial Government of Palawan, Palawan Electric Cooperative and the Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative. *Geralford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AN APPEAL TO SEC. MIKE DEFENSOR

- We congratulate you for Pag-Ibig. The system is now streamlined and processing has become very fast. What is needed is to make it more responsive to its low income members and to those from the informal sector who are desirous of Pag-Ibig membership.
- We thank you for taking a personal hand on the Community Mortgage Program. Although performance of CMP has improved, it is still much lower vis-à-vis the funds that you have raised. We urge you to pursue this course of action, otherwise this much needed funds will not reach the urban poor. (P1.129 billion is available, as of February 2003.)
- **However, we lament the failure of NHMFC to discuss the creation of the Social Housing Corporation during its May 21, 2003 board meeting, contrary to the personal and public promises you made on April 8, 11, 23 and May 19. The Social Housing Corporation is the long term solution to addressing comprehensively the problems of housing the poor.**

Secretary Defensor, you and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo have done very much for the urban poor. You still have a year to do much more. This would not only be a legacy but the standard you would have set for the forthcoming administration.

CMP
National Congress of CMP Originators and Social Development Organizations for Low Income Housing
Secretariat: 48 Alvarez St., Project 4, Quezon City, M.M.
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loc. 2812, 2824, 3812
Selling agents to be announced

Q&A:

1. What are Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs)?

The Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) are part of the government's savings mobilization program designed to make government securities available to retail investors. It is issued by the Republic of the Philippines through the Bureau of the Treasury. This issue of the RTBs will have a maturity of 3 and 5 years and an investor may purchase any tenor or a combination thereof. Interest or coupon payments will be paid quarterly compared to the regular Treasury Bonds which are paid semi-annually.

2. Why invest in RTBs?

The RTBs are designed to provide a safe, high-yielding and affordable savings instrument.

RTBs are safe. They are considered practically risk-free because they are direct, unconditional and general obligations of the Republic of the Philippines.

RTBs are high-yielding. Interest rates are superior to typical time deposit rates.

RTBs are affordable. The minimum denomination is only P5,000 and in multiples of P5,000 thereafter.

3. Who can purchase the RTBs?

The *RTBs* aim to cater to retail investors such as individuals, and corporations who are looking for a safe, affordable and high-yielding investment for their savings. In addition, the *RTBs* will also be available for purchase by financial and other institutional investors.

4. Where and when can an investor purchase RTBs?

The *RTBs* will be sold to the public during the Public Offering (PO) which will be announced in major dailies.

The Public Offering is the opportunity given to retail investors to subscribe to the RTBs through LANDBANK and DBP and the accredited Underwriters and Selling Agents.

The terms and conditions applicable to the RTBs as well as copies of the complete documentation will be made available during the Public Offering by each Underwriter and Selling Agent.

5. How does an investor participate in the PO?

Investors may purchase the bonds over the counter from the Underwriter or Selling Agent nearest them, subject to the minimum deposit requirements of each Underwriter and Selling Agent.

They will be required to open a peso deposit account or designate an existing peso account where interest payment and principal redemption of the *RTBs* will be credited.

For corporations, copies of the Board Resolutions authorizing the purchase of RTBs and indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures shall be required.

6. What is an investor's proof of ownership?

The Underwriters and Selling Agents will sell the RTBs to individuals and other investors on a non-recourse basis through confirmations of outright sale (the "Confirmations of Sale") issued by the Underwriter or Selling Agent. Investors may pick up these Confirmations of Sale a few days after the close of the public offering from the offices of the Underwriter or Selling Agent. In the meantime, an Acknowledgement Receipt will be issued to investors at the time of payment.

No certificate will be issued to bondholders as ownership by individuals and other investors will be registered in electronic form under the BTr's Registry of Scripless Securities.

7. Can an investor still purchase RTBs after the public offering?

After the PO, an investor can buy *RTBs* from the secondary market at prevailing market prices.

8. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?

The RTBs are considered having the least credit-risk because they represent the direct and unconditional obligation of the government thereby enjoying the highest certainty of payment. The yield is assured if the investor holds on to the bond until maturity. However, if an investor opts to sell the RTBs in the secondary market prior to its maturity, then it will be subject to interest rate risk depending on the prevailing market rate at the time the RTBs are resold in the secondary market.

9. Where can an investor trade his RTBs?

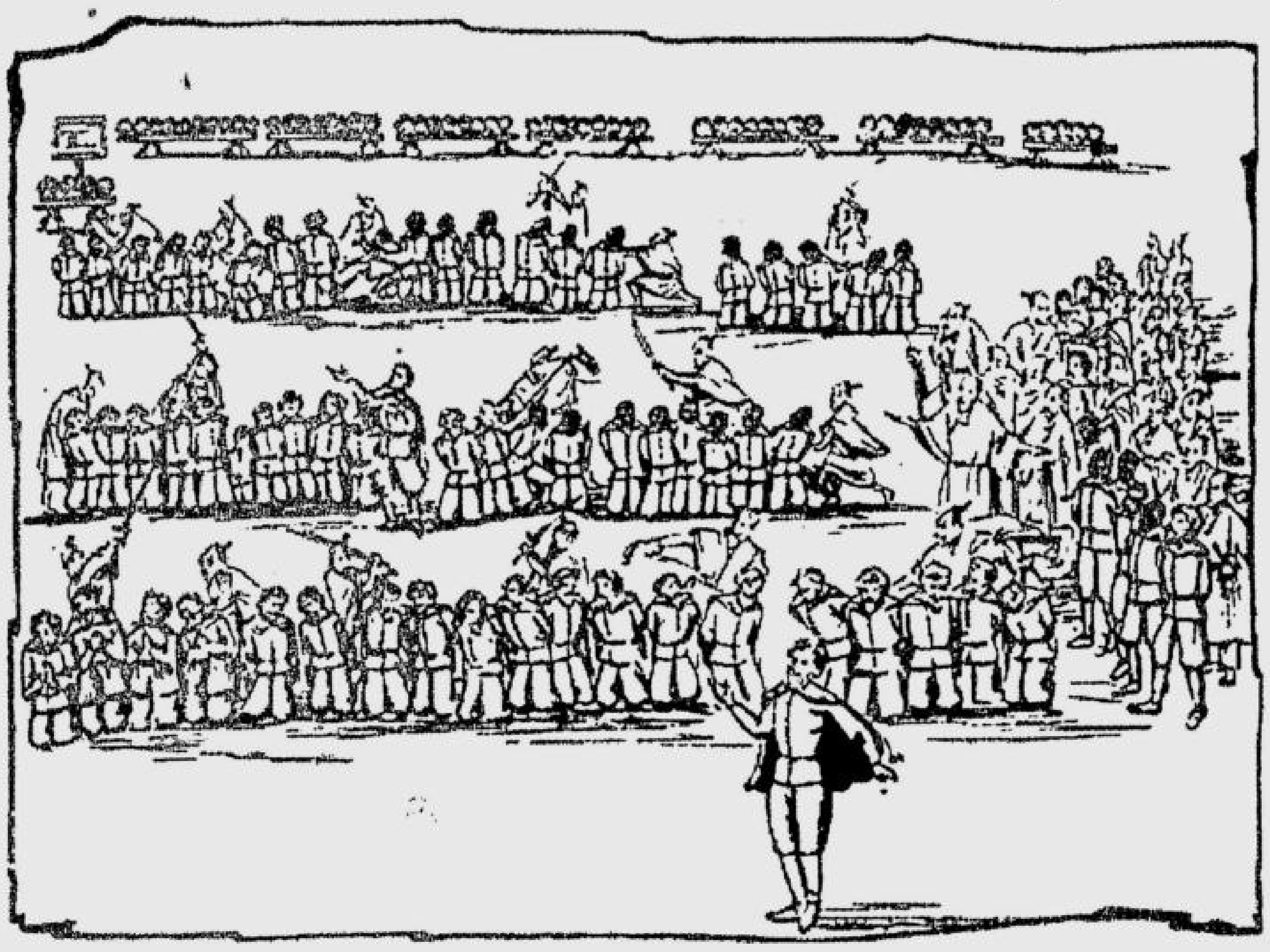
Investors can sell their *RTBs* to the Underwriter/ Selling Agent from which the RTBs were originally purchased subject to prevailing market rates.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

YALUNG


THIS illustation, taken from the book "Kapampangan Pioneers in the Philippine Church," depicts the beheading of the 61 martyrs of Macao in Nagasaki (1640). Among those beheaded was Kapampangan Juan de Guerra, the second Filipino martyr.

BACANI

Beyond Bishops Bacani and Yalung

Kapampangan faithful told to find strength in Church's pioneers

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

BETWEEN Bishops Crisostomo Yalung and Teodoro Bacani is not only a sex scandal. Their being both Kapampangan is perhaps more unsettling to the clergy and the faithful in Pampanga, Spain's first Luzon province where Augustinian missionaries spread Catholicism and which, to this day, is reckoned to be producing more priests than any other province in the Philippines.

As the controversy raged, Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto did not pass judgment on the two bishops. But like keeping a shuddered flock together, he called on the more than two million Catholics in the province to deepen spiritual renewal and to continue living out God's gospel of love and service in communities.

As the allegations on the sexual indiscretions of Yalung and Bacani threaten to shake the faith, the Holy Angel University—the first Catholic school administered by lay persons—is encouraging Catholics to contemplate on and find strength in the contributions of Kapampangan pioneers in the Church.

The lives of these parishioners, priests, religious and nuns are documented in the book "Laying the Foundations: Kapampangans in the Philippine Church, 1592-2001."

Published by the HAU's Center for Kapampangan Studies in January, the book, according to Aniceto, is "a grateful remembrance of their lives and inspire[s] us to continue renewing ourselves and our society with the new fire and faith and hope in the Third Millennium."

Lights and shadows

"Every ethnic community or province has its own lights and shadows," he noted.

And without making any reference to anyone, Aniceto said: "To be a Kapampangan, a Filipino and a Christian is a gift and a responsibility."

"At a time when the world is passing through a crucial stage, we turn our gaze to a segment of Church history which provides us men and women imbued with a deep sense of identity and fidelity to their vocation," Aniceto said in the foreword.

The author, Dr. Luciano P.R. Santiago, brought to fore, through archival research, previously unknown Kapampangan men and women.

"All the Kapampangan pioneers are worthy of emulation by the present and future generations of priests, nuns and lay persons, especially in the light of the recent scandals which beset the Church," Santiago said in his introduction.

Among the pioneers in the "roll of honor," as Santiago puts it, were Martin Sancho, Phelipe Sonsong and Julian de la Cruz, the first three Filipino Jesuits; Juan de Guerra, the second Filipino martyr; and Sor Martha de San Bernardo and Sor Madalena de la Concepcion, the first two Filipino nuns.

The first Filipino priest, Bachiller Don (BD) Miguel Jeronimo de Morales, was also a Kapampangan. The first Filipino "priestly clan" was the Baluyots of Guagua who produced four Filipino pioneer priests.

The book also identified Padre Juan Severino Mallari of Magalang town as the first Filipino priest executed by the Spanish government in 1840. [Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora were executed on Feb. 17, 1872].

The late Rufino Cardinal Santos, the first Filipino cardinal, was also a Kapampangan from Guagua.

According to Santiago, these native pioneers "contributed a big part of the cornerstone of the Catholic Church in the Philippines."

"They were the trailblazers in the Church, both triumphant and suffering, wounded and healing, and they reflected the religious character and vigor of the faithful of Pampanga," Santiago said.

Baguio City's boy-hero Tonton recuperating in Germany

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

THE LEFT eye in 10-year-old Janston "Tonton" Diaz's burn-disfigured face had been set back in place.

Since March 22, Tonton, whose heroic rescue of his twin playmates from a 1997 fire led to a brief scandal, had gone three times under the knife in a burn clinic in the industrial town of Ludwigshafen, Germany.

German burn specialist Gunter Gafmann stitched back the muscles holding Tonton's left eye that was loosened from its socket after his face was burned, said German philanthropist Marion Maurer.

Maurer, who runs the Philippinische Kinderhilfe ev., obtained the support of some 200 German donors to bring Tonton to Ludwigshafen, where the boy is now recuperating.

Gafmann had also operated on Tonton to free his gnarled fingers and toes from flame-hardened skin on his hands and feet. The doctor also reconstructed Tonton's ears, after the fire had damaged these.

But the series of operations had been paced rather slowly, Maurer said.

For every operation, Tonton's grandmother, Eliza, agonized for weeks over the surgical details before she granted doctors her permission.

The last delicate operation is still awaiting Eliza's nod. It would require Gafmann to peel off the burned skin at the back of Tonton's head for cleansing, before surgeons replace it with a "clean" layer of skin, said Gerry Beltran, one of Tonton's Filipino benefactors and supporter of Maurer's foundation.

Beltran said Eliza had asked that the medical procedures be laid out to her in their entirety, unmindful of a self-imposed schedule the doctor had set to restore Tonton to good health.

"But we know Tonton's story, so we understand why [the family members react the way they do about anything that would remotely affect the child]," he said.

The trip appears to be the last stage in Eliza's rather painful journey to get her grandson treated. Days after the INQUIRER reported the then 4-year-old Tonton's heroic deed in June 1997, the mother of the twin toddlers he had rescued denied the incident.

The city council initiated an investigation because of the amount of donations and pledges that Tonton received.

Suddenly, the poverty of Tonton's family had become suspect. The child's grandfather and father are employed at an automobile repair shop, while his mother serves meals at an eatery near a bus station.

The councilors later asked the National Bureau of Investigation to validate Tonton's heroism.

Two years later, the NBI issued a report to the city council but had kept documents on this confidential.

The scandal was never publicly resolved.

Yet in the years that Tonton was accused and pilloried before the city council, support for his medication had dwindled.

JANSTON "Tonton" Diaz is healing in Germany, thanks to Good Samaritans who helped finance a series of operations to restore his disfigured face.

EV ESPIRITU

The accusations of fraud had affected Tonton and his family.

Before Tonton left for Germany in March, Eliza confided to the INQUIRER that she had become more guarded—at times, to the point of hysteria—about any Good Samaritan offers.

The paranoia was evident in 2001 when Eliza and Tonton left the Philippine General Hospital where President Macapagal-Arroyo, then vice president and concurrent social welfare secretary, had referred them.

Eliza explained later that Tonton had started to fear people wearing white laboratory coat on account of the numerous examinations the boy had to endure from various doctors.

Suspicion

Maurer said she had to deal with the same bouts of suspicion when the child's plight was first brought to her attention last year.

The Philippinische Kinderhilfe ev. had been distributing toys and food to poor Filipino children in the last 10 years. Maurer had shifted her base to Baguio City in 1999, which is her springboard to donating food to selected beneficiaries in Northern Luzon.

Beltran brought Tonton's case to Maurer in August last year.

But it took the donors and social workers until late February to obtain a waiver from Tonton's mother that entrusted him to German doctors.

The INQUIRER learned that it took the same time for Eliza to fight for the right to join her grandchild in Germany. The donors had planned to hire a social worker to accompany and care for Tonton, while he recuperates there.

But Maurer said the child's comfort was always her principal concern. Tonton stays in a private ward that was filled with "toys and German chocolates," she said.

The donors had been paying 380 euros (P23,700) for each day of Tonton's stay there, as well as the 30 euros (P1,871) Eliza receives in daily allowances. Food and lodging is free, Maurer said.

"Tonton is expected to stay for another six weeks to complete his operations and to heal, before he can be sent back to the Philippines. The doctor wants to give Tonton a complete bill of health before he releases him," she said.

The donors also obtained an apartment for his grandmother at a staff building close to the Ludwigshafen clinic, although Eliza spends virtually all of her time near Tonton's bedside.

"We once saw her sitting with her head slumped on the cot where Tonton lies, sleeping, and yet she had her apartment," Maurer said. She said this aspect of Filipino devotion was strange to many Germans.

"But [Eliza] seemed satisfied. She told me Tonton was getting even better treatment [in Germany]. She said she did not get this kind of treatment back home."

Target: 62 drug rings to bust in three months

From page A1

syndicates were identified as operating in the country and only one, identified as Target 100, was successfully neutralized by law enforcers," said Barbers.

This means that the 37 foreign nationals arrested in 2002 and the 2,889 kilos of shabu seized from them "were just a small part of the total volume of illegal drugs that the 10 other transnational syndicates could have been importing into our country," Barbers said.

Barbers, who chairs the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, said the drug problem in the country was alarming.

PNP anti-drug achievers

Also yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced that the government would use achievements in the fight against illegal drugs as a yardstick for promoting police personnel.

"I am now adopting a policy of making anti-drug accomplishments a benchmark for promotion and reassignment in the Philippine National Police," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said she would scrutinize the PNP rolls and look closely "at how each and every potential promotee at the high levels of the police organization measures up to this standard.

She said no police officer with a tainted record shall get the chance to move up.

Serious threat

"The proliferation and usage of drugs are a serious threat to our national well-being, as reports reveal that more and more serious crimes committed are drug-related," the President said. The PDEA said that up to 70 percent of those behind bars were jailed on drug-related offenses.

The President said her administration was implementing "an integrated strategy of supply interdiction and demand curtailment."

Ms Macapagal acknowledged that the proliferation of illegal drugs could not be checked because rogue policemen themselves were involved in the illicit trade.

"This is the principal reason why the government is imposing mandatory random drug-testing in order to purge the PNP and other law enforcement agencies of drug users, before we deal with drug traffickers on the streets through the task forces of the PDEA," she said.

Since the launching of the drug test program last week, 11 policemen have been found positive for drug use. Eight of them are scheduled to be named by tomorrow once a second test confirms the initial findings.

Special operations

To address the drug menace, the government has formed Special Operations Groups representing all law enforcement agencies and Barangay Anti-Drug Action Committees (BADACs).

The SOGs will come from the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, and the Armed Forces, each of them dealing with a specific drug syndicate, said Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, head of the PNP anti-drug task force.

"Expect a lot of raids nationwide in the coming days," Aglipay told the INQUIRER.

The BADACs will tip off police of suspected drug users and pushers in their communities and educate residents on the drug menace, according to Lina.

A substantial portion of the P1-billion budget will be earmarked for activities such as seminars for students, law enforcers, prosecutors and judges, monitoring of drug-related cases in courts, a reward system for informants, and mandatory drug tests.

The government has initially allocated P150 million for the PDEA's "private eye" program, which rewards people whose tips lead to successful anti-drug operations.

The allocations still need the approval of the President.

Ignacio Bunye, the President's spokesperson, said Ms Macapagal would give all the resources the PDEA needed to lick the illegal drug problem.

In Cebu City, Rep. Antonio Cuenco urged Ms Macapagal to certify as urgent a bill seeking to allocate P1 billion in annual budget for the PDEA for the recruitment of personnel and for the rehabilitation of drug users.

Small budget

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs, said that while the government was stressing the need to strengthen the anti-drug campaign, it had given the PDEA a small budget.

He said the government only gave P133 million to the PDEA and P135 million to the Dangerous Drugs Board.

"So if the government is sincere in eradicating illegal drugs, it should provide the necessary funding support for anti-drug enforcement agencies," Cuenco said.

Without proper logistical support, the PDEA is using "assets" (informants) from the defunct Narcotics Command and from other police units.

This practice poses a bigger problem in drug enforcement because the assets are often suspected to be in cahoots with drug dealers, according to Cuenco.

PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido said his agency had to "borrow" some PNP personnel in conducting raids and entrapment operations because his agency was only 10-month-old.

"We are in a transition phase, so we don't have our own manpower," Avenido said.

Cuenco, the main author of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 that sets stiff penalties, lamented that the law had not been able to curb illegal drug use in the country because of the insincerity of the different law enforcement agencies.

He said connivance between drug dealers and some policemen and prosecutors often resulted in the dismissal of charges against suspects due to "lack of evidence."

Cuenco said policemen in cahoots with drug dealers should be punished and dismissed from the service. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Drug user, drug abuser, drug dependent...

PEOPLE found using prohibited substances are quickly branded "abusers." But as people are classified into different race, gender and age, so are the drug users grouped into various categories. Who says so? The government.

The Dangerous Drugs Board lists down the categories by which "abusers" are to be clustered.

A "drug abuser" is referred to as an individual who deliberately uses chemical substances for reasons other than their intended medical purposes. "Drug dependents" are those who are physically and psychologically dependent on dangerous drugs on a periodic and continuous basis.

Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, adopted the World Health Organization's definition of drug dependence.

The law says "drug dependence ... is a cluster of physiological, behavioral and cognitive phenomena of variable intensity, in which the use of psychoactive drug takes on a high priority thereby involving, among others, a strong desire or a sense of compulsion to take the substance and the difficulties in controlling substance-taking behavior in terms of its onset, termination, or levels of use."

The board's survey on the extent of drug abuse in the Philippines yielded further categories. The term "user" is grouped according to how often one uses drugs.

The board says those who tried using drugs at least once in their lifetime are called "lifetime prevalent users."

A "current user" is someone who took drugs during the last six months prior to the conduct of the survey. A "regular user" took drugs once or twice a week for six months, and those who used drugs continuously for a month. And if one used drugs once or twice a month up to three months, one is an "occasional user." *Armin Adina, PDI Research Department*

9M, not 3.4M . . .

From page A1

He admitted that this was "not (an) accurate gauge" of the extent of the drug problem besetting the country.

Mary Ong, aka Rosebud, a former anti-narcotics agent, said the 3.4 million only accounted for those who tested positive for drug use.

"It doesn't account for the occasional users, which could be more," Ong said.

Based on the information from his committee's "unofficial sources," Cuenco said half of the 9 million drug users could be habitual users. The other half are occasional drug users.

Cuenco said he would not want to argue which figure was right. The most important thing is for the public to realize that the drug problem in the country is very alarming, according to the congressman.

Widespread in Mindanao

In the Senate, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said illegal drugs were "widespread" in Mindanao, reaching even the remotest areas in Sulu, Lanao and Cagayan de Oro.

Although the "Colombia scenario" is not imminent, "the influence of drug lords, unless nipped in the bud, will be crucial in local elections," Pimentel said.

To protect their trade, drug lords would buy votes to ensure that local politicians sympathetic to them get elected, he said.

"So there should be a no-nonsense drive versus drug laboratories and raiding of known personalities involved in drug distribution," he said.

He likened the drug menace to the proliferation of illegal gambling, saying "illegal drug distribution cannot thrive without the connivance of the police and local officials."

So, he said, there should be a crackdown on "known drug syndicates and their allies in government."

Also, Pimentel called on the Department of Education and the PDEA to conduct an "honest-to-goodness educational campaign so that the youth are made knowledgeable of the destructive effects of drug abuse."

Drug testing

TUCP's Herrera is urging labor unions to support mandatory drug testing of workers in the workplace.

"Drug imperils the lives of workers and their families. It creates more problems in the workplace," Herrera said in a statement.

Drug use results in absenteeism, low level of performance, problems with co-workers and eventually, dismissal from employment, according to Herrera.

The TUCP, however, said that employers should be the ones to shoulder the cost of drug testing if they wanted their employees to steer away from illegal drug use.

Private schools, on the other hand, have been doing surprise drug testing to ensure that students are not using illegal drugs, said Luz Revita Cruz, president of the Philippine Academy of Physicians in School Health. The students are called randomly unannounced to submit their urine samples for testing.

Cruz said parents whose children study in private schools were very supportive of the drug testing. Their only concern was the cost. Cruz said testing for two drugs, *shabu* and marijuana, cost P350.

Avenido belied reports that drug abuse was more prevalent in slum areas in Metro Manila and urban centers across the country.

He said more and more professionals were reported to have been using prohibited drugs such as shabu, marijuana and the party drug ecstacy. *With a report from Blanche Rivera*

Hurting Church . . .

From page A1

fair, treatment of Church problems," and had decided that it would "pray for the media."

He said this conclusion was reached by priests of the archdiocese at a meeting held last week at the Villa San Miguel, residence of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. The meeting was conducted to discuss ways to respond to "emerging situations" that needed proper handling by the Church and the media, he said.

Bacani's spokesperson Msgr. Jesus Romulo-Rañada, who was present at the meeting, said the archdiocese had assigned a group of priests to handle information on the Church.

Rañada assailed what he called "irresponsible journalism," and cited the exposé on Bacani by Newsbreak, a fortnightly magazine.

Pastor Bacani, the bishop's elder brother, said their family continued to experience "extreme pain and anguish" because of the allegation of sexual harassment against the bishop.

He said they were being "physically and emotionally drained" by the continuing reports on both the bishop and the bishop's accuser. He added, however, that his brother was "very happy" about the support especially from El Shaddai, and thanked the various groups who had offered prayers and encouragement.

Bacani's secretary of five years has accused him of twice making sexual advances to her. She took her case to the Apostolic Nunciature and has since left Bacani's employ.

Bacani left for the United States last week purportedly to visit his ailing mother and to undergo a medical checkup himself.

He is expected to return next month, in time for the regular assembly of bishops in Tagaytay City. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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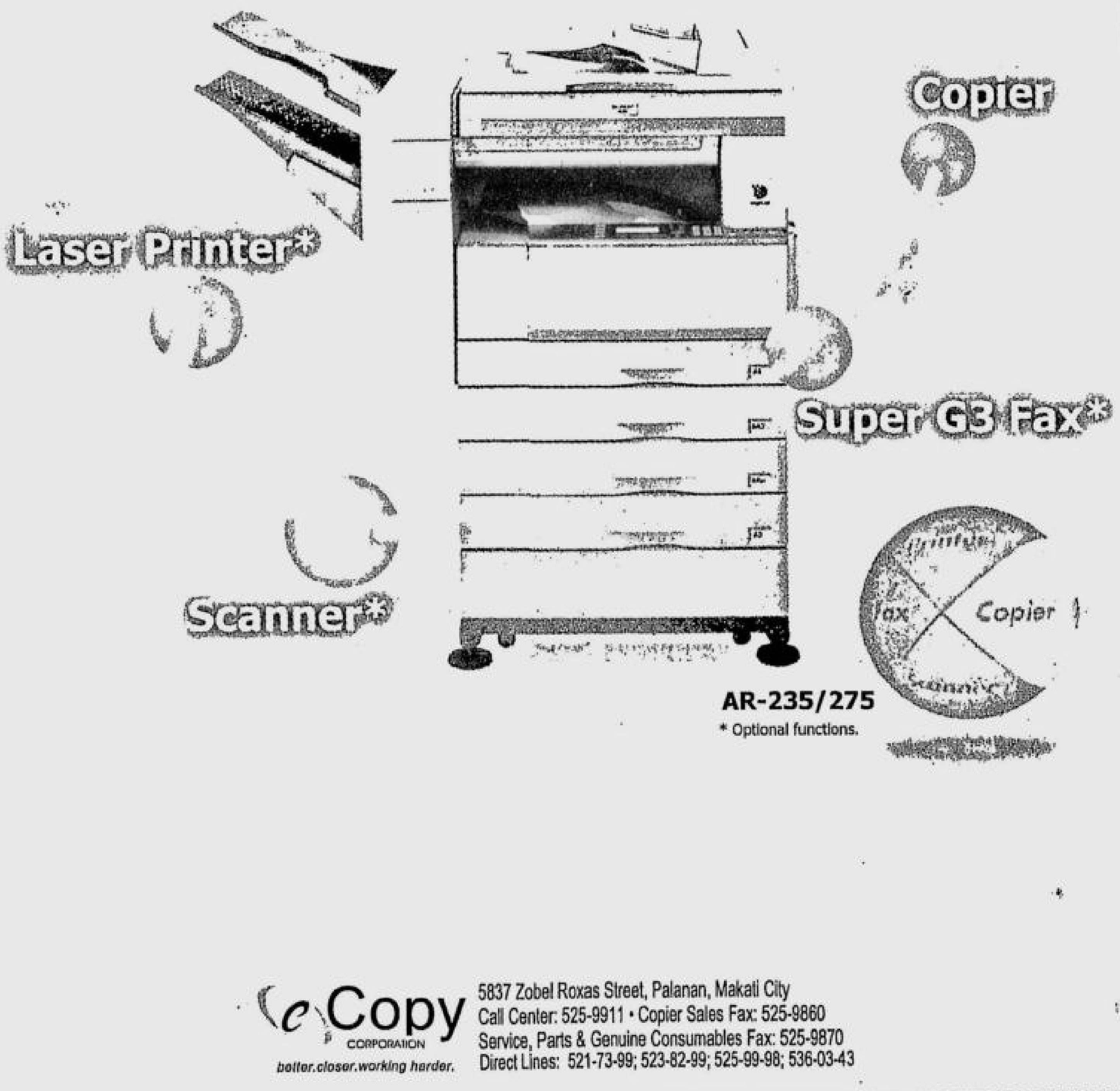

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2 ½ hours in Thailand, 2 years in RP

From page A1

of corruption and red tape in the land administration system.

The "defects" in the system came bubbling to the surface yesterday as agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources pushed for the creation of a single office that will handle land-related transactions.

At present, up to five different offices are involved in the process, often resulting in "confusion" over which laws and land valuation standards to apply, said DENR Assistant Secretary Mylene Albano.

These are the Land Registration Authority and the Registry of Deeds under the Department of Justice; and the Lands Management Bureau, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, and the DENR secretariat for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, all under the environment department.

The DENR said the government had lost about P100 billion between 1991 and 2000 in unrealized revenues, such as real estate, capital gains and transfer taxes.

The lost revenues were caused by the low volume of land-related transactions—because the multiple agencies, snail-paced steps, and stiff costs involved in registering land titles and transfers had discouraged the public.

The "overlapping agencies and unnecessary processes" are also to blame for the growing cases of conflicting land claims and proliferation of fake titles, the DENR added.

Fixers and bribe-takers "thrive in such a situation," Albano noted.

She said the DENR's initial response to the problem was to set up "one-stop-shops" in the provinces that would coordinate different land transactions with the government under one roof.

Albano spoke during yesterday's "Declaration of Partnership" among the DENR, DOJ, and the National Anti-Poverty Commission under the Office of the President, in support of congressional measures seen as the long-term solution to the problem.

The signatory agencies gave a unified endorsement of the recently filed House and Senate bills creating the Land Administration Authority—essentially the merger of all the "land" agencies now in operation.

The LAA Bill was filed on June 2 at the House by Representatives Francis Escudero and Neptali Gonzales III. Its Senate version was filed on June 4 by Senators Robert Jaworski and Edgardo Angara.

Asean tells Burma to release Suu Kyi

From page A1

prompted by embarrassing international pressure and criticism of Asean for long turning a blind eye to the Burmese junta's anti-democratic behavior.

"It's a step forward," Singapore Foreign Minister Shanmugan Jayakumar said of the statement, which also called on Burma's military rulers to release members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party.

"The kind of discussions we have had ... I don't think we could have had 10 years ago," he said, adding that all the ministers talked "openly and frankly."At the end of their two-day meeting in the Cambodian capital, the Asean foreign ministers likewise stepped up pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program but called for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The ministers, however, did not have enough time to debate a Philippine proposal to provide North Korea with a five-country security guarantee and economic aid if the communist nation gives up its nuclear weapons program.

The ministers decided to discuss it at a larger security meeting, the Asean Regional Forum, to be held Wednesday. The ARF comprises Asean's 10 members and its 13 partners from the Asia-Pacific region.

"It's an urgent matter. The world community has to understand the peril arising from the nuclearization of the Korean peninsula," said Philippine Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople.

"It also means potential dissemination of weapons of mass destruction. We are all affected," he said.

The main focus of the Asean meeting, however, was Burma. The foreign ministers said in a joint statement that they "looked forward to the early lifting of restrictions placed on ... Aung San Suu Kyi."

Apply pressure

Australia's Alexander Downer, who is attending the Asean Regional Forum, urged the Asean ministers to keep up the pressure until Suu Kyi is freed.

"Whatever they say publicly, we hope that they will continue to apply pressure privately right now for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy officials," Downer told reporters on his way to Phnom Penh.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, was detained after the May 30 violence in northern Burma that the military described as a clash between members of her party and government supporters. Opposition accounts say it was an ambush of Suu Kyi's entourage in which as many as 70 people were killed.

The junta has reportedly detained more than 100 opposition members and closed offices of Suu Kyi's party. Foreign Minister Win Aung said Sunday that Suu Kyi was detained to protect her from a possible assassination attempt.

Boldness

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar hailed Asean's boldness in tackling issues that for long had been considered taboo.

"I think it is a very good statement. Asean has reached a stage of maturity. While respecting cardinal principles we are at the same time willing to discuss all domestic issues that may have impact on other Asean countries," he told reporters.

The joint statement said the ministers noted the efforts of Burma's junta to promote peace and development in the country. "In this connection, we urged Myanmar to resume its efforts of national reconciliation and dialogue among all parties concerned leading to a peaceful transition to democracy."

The junta, which came to power in 1988, refused to step down after Suu Kyi's party won national elections in 1990. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Diplomatic sources said that during their closed-door meeting on Monday, Win Aung was told bluntly by his counterparts that Suu Kyi's detention was hurting Asean's image.

Indonesia's Hasan Wirayuda warned that with Suu Kyi in custody "the international pressure on Myanmar would increase," and Malaysia's Syed Hamid said "there is a need for an end date" to the crisis.

North Korea

The Asean foreign ministers also expressed concern at the end of talks over tensions on the Korean peninsula due to Pyongyang's nuclear weapons drive and called for a peaceful resolution to the problem.

Tensions in the region have been mounting since last October when US officials said North Korea admitted having a covert nuclear program. The United States and its allies cut off free oil shipments. North Korea retaliated by quitting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and restarting its nuclear facilities.

The Philippine proposal called for a security guarantee to be provided by the United States, South Korea, China, Russia and Japan "in exchange for the verifiable and irreversible elimination of (North Korea's) nuclear weapons program."

It also proposed an economic package that will include the normalization of economic relations with North Korea, and urges Japan, the United States, South Korea, the European Union, China and Russia to contribute to the package. It promised an Asean contribution as well.

"We reaffirmed our conviction that a nuclear-weapons free Korea and a peaceful resolution of the current tensions through dialogue and negotiations would be [illegible]able contribution to the prospects [illegible] and stability in East Asia," the Asean [illegible] statement said.

North Korea's nuclear ambition is among key topics for discussion at the Asean Regional Forum, Asia-Pacific's dominant security forum comprising 23 members, including the United States, Russia, China, Japan and the European Union.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell is expected to ask members of the forum to continue their pressure on North Korea to resolve tensions. Powell's North Korean counterpart Paek Nam-sun canceled plans to attend the talks last week and will instead be represented by an envoy.

Confronted with rising terrorism by Islamic fundamentalists, the Asean ministers also pledged to join the world in fighting the scourge. *Reports from AP and AFP*

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'Egay' intensifies into a typhoon

From page A1

Clara Subdivision, was supposedly walking home from an errand Sunday morning when she slipped into an open canal about a kilometer away.

On Monday at Barangay Mabulo, Erlinda Rono came home after selling cooked food at the market and was told by witnesses that her son Arnel and his small banca had disappeared into the raging waters of the Bicol River.

Rono told a police officer that she had warned her 17-year-old son against pushing through with his planned boat ride in the swirling current made even more dangerous by water lilies and flood debris, including uprooted trees.

Until yesterday, Arnel's body had yet to be found although the river had since subsided to half its level Sunday.

The Bicol River is the main tributary that flows out of San Miguel Bay, about 20 kilometers off the southeastern side of Naga City.

Of the six provinces of Bicol, Camarines Sur was the hardest hit by floods, said Fe D. Laysa, regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture.

The rains flooded 1,200 hectares of rice land within the Bicol River Basin Area, Laysa said.

Classes in all levels in Camarines Sur were resumed yesterday except in campuses still underwater.

The Coast Guard apprehended at least seven vessels sailing at the height of the rains.

Disaster preparedness

On her way back to Manila yesterday afternoon at the end of her eight-day visit to Mindanao, President Macapagal-Arroyo lectured Calbayog City officials on disaster preparedness in the course of a brief visit there.

The President was moved to

BIG sister in Navotas carries her brother to school as tropical storm "Egay" continues to dump heavy rains on many parts of the country, leading to 10 deaths so far and stranding thousands of commuters. AFP

say her piece after being told that a mother, her two sons and a relative living along a river bank in Catbalogan, Samar, 72 kilometers away from the city drowned at the height of the rains.

She said she was surprised that a mere storm had resulted in the death of four people. "This could have been avoided if the provincial or municipal disaster coordinating council were prepared," she said.

Ms Macapagal arrived at the Calbayog domestic airport at around 12:30 p.m. in a Lear Jet. She was accompanied by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, national chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), and Agriculture Secretary Jose Luis Lorenzo Jr.

She spoke with local officials for almost an hour right at the pre-departure section. Among those present were Samar Vice Gov. Ernesto Arcales, Calbayog Mayor Senes Sarmiento, Catbalogan Mayor Jesus Redaja, police regional chief Dionisio Coloma, chair of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Eastern Visayas and Philippine Information Agency regional director Karen Tiopes.

The President said she was saddened that lives were lost "despite the fact that the typhoon was not that strong."

"Our target is zero casualty ... in any disaster," she said. "Typhoons and other catastrophes cannot be prevented, but we can prevent casualty.

Redaja told Ms Macapagal that the townsfolk living by the riverbanks had ignored his warnings and refused to leave their homes.

He said an estimated 3,000 families were living along Catbalogan's 30 coastal barangays.

Long-term solution

But the President said the families concerned could have been evacuated earlier. She said that as a long-term solution, the local government should plan a relocation site for those living in unsafe areas.

She also urged all local officials to constantly issue warnings during typhoons to avoid casualties and loss of property.

Reyes said the NDCC was drawing up a comprehensive disaster plan for presentation to the President and her Cabinet.

He also cited an agreement between the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Budget and Management wherein all local government units could use, in a predisaster situation, 5 percent from their Internal Revenue Allotment.

While at the airport, the President condoled with Renato Dacoma, 30, whose wife Lorna, 27, and children Arvin and Mark, 10 and 3, drowned in the Antiao River Sunday evening.

A daughter, Frankie, 5, is still missing. A relative, Leo Tapalla, 30, also drowned. All the victims were asleep when their houses made of light materials were swept away by the raging waters.

Renato, who was brought to Calbayog by local officials to meet with Ms Macapagal, received from her an undetermined amount of cash placed in a white envelope.

Welcome rains

In Isabela, agriculture officer Danilo Tumamao said the continuous rains were proving beneficial for rice and corn farmers there.

"The planting of corn will now push through," he said. "It was long delayed because of the lack of rainfall. For *palay*, all farmers will likely plant now."

Tumamao said at least 125,000 hectares and 127,000 hectares of corn and rice fields were sure to yield a bountiful harvest.

Vicente Galvez, regional manager of the National Irrigation Administration, said the rains also helped ensure a stable water supply at the Magat Dam in Ramon town for irrigation.

Classes in elementary and high schools remained suspended in Isabela, Cagayan and Ilocos Norte yesterday, the second day of the school year.

In Baguio City, strong winds and rains also forced the suspension of classes in all levels.

The city disaster coordinating council said heavy rains eroded the hillside foundation of a house inside Teachers' Camp.

There were no reports of major landslides although the Department of Public Works and Highways ordered Kennon Road closed to traffic Monday afternoon as a precaution, a DPWH official said.

A section of Naguilian Road was partly obstructed Monday night when the rains eroded a hillside leading to a residential subdivision. Clearing operations have started.

The Benguet Disaster Coordinating Council reported thigh-high flooding in a portion of Halsema Highway near Barangay Tomay in La Trinidad.

The DPWH also reported a landslide on Dalupirip Road in Itogon.

In Laoag City, the rains caused knee-deep to waist-deep floods in low-lying areas.

The Philippine National Red Cross reported waist-deep floods in Barangays Pannaratan, Surgui, San Agustin and Salbang.

Roads leading to the eastern town of Piddig were reported impassable. *Reports from Juan Escandor and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau; Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez, Vincent Cabreza and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Juliet L. Javellana and TJ Burgonio in Manila*

'Egay' heads for Taiwan

TYPHOON "Egay," which hit the Philippines as a tropical storm during the weekend, was moving north northwest at 19 kph toward the Batanes area yesterday, according to the weather bureau.

It is expected to be at 400 km northeast of Taiwan this morning, or at 230 km west northwest of Okinawa by tomorrow morning.

Yesterday, Storm Signal No. 3 remained in effect over the Batanes Group of Islands and Northern Cagayan; No. 2 over Ilocos Norte, Apayao, Kalinga, Abra, northern Isabela and the rest of Cagayan; and No. 1 over the rest of northern Luzon, northern Nueva Ecija and northern Aurora.

Eastern Visayas remained the hardest hit by Egay. In Northern Samar and Biliran, some 50 families or 300 persons had to move to safe ground. Thirteen houses were totally damaged and 14 others were partially damaged, according to the Office of Civil Defense. *TJ Burgonio*

New Estrada lawyer drops new bombshell

From page A1

day after Estrada warned of an "Edsa 4"—another display of people power—if the impeachment charges he filed against eight SC justices failed to prosper. Apparently taking him at his word, about 50 of his loyalists stormed the house of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in Quezon City yesterday.

However, the members of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Maralitang Pilipino (PKMP) and the Kabataang Malaya para sa Bayan (KMB) were stopped by policemen before they could enter the BF Homes subdivision in Don Antonio, Fairview.

Their path was blocked by a small contingent of riot policemen and security guards. The members of the youth group tried to force their way into the village but the policemen forced them out. A short shoving match then ensued, but no one was injured or arrested.

After a few minutes, the loyalists started shouting slogans against Davide and other Supreme Court justices Estrada wanted impeached. They dispersed peacefully after an hour.

Lightning rallies

More loyalists braved yesterday's heavy downpour to hold lightning rallies in front of the Makati offices of Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban and Antonio Carpio.

The PKMP also stormed the Villaraza and Angcangco law firm in Legaspi Village, which is perceived to be close to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

PKMP spokesperson Von Mesina said around a hundred members trooped to each of the three Makati sites, which include, aside from the Villaraza law firm, Panganiban's Cityland 10 residence and Carpio's Avignon Towers office on Dela Costa Street.

The Makati rallies began at 9:15 a.m. and ended before 10 a.m.

A security guard of the Cityland 10 building said the rally was peaceful, probably because of the heavy rain, and estimated the crowd at 30. The Makati police, on the other hand, claimed they went to the alleged rally sites but failed to see any protesters.

Reached for comment, the SC spokesperson said the high court was unfazed by the pickets.

"The Court is not intimidated. They will not be influenced in their decision-making. The rallies do not faze them. These have no effect at all on their objective evaluation of the cases they hear," said Assistant Court Administrator Ismael Khan Jr.

"We think that these rallies are uncalled for. The police know what to do," Khan said.

Police assurance

The Philippine National Police assured Supreme Court justices they would be protected from picketing Estrada loyalists.

PNP spokesperson Director Ricardo de Leon said security measures were in place to ensure the safety of Davide and other justices.

"There's no need to worry, we're on top of the situation," he told reporters.

PROTESTERS at the gates of the subdivision in Quezon City where Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide lives, is turned away by the police on Tuesday. The rally was mounted by Estrada loyalists demanding the resignation of Davide and other associate justices who they claimed conspired to unseat their idol. JOAN BONDOC

De Leon warned rallyists that they would be dispersed should they again picket in front of the houses and offices of the justices without securing permits from local governments.

The no-permit, no-picket policy remains in effect in Metro Manila, the official said.

Kahn said he has not heard of any request from the justices for additional security.

"You know the justices are laid-back on this matter. They don't put too much attention on these things," he said.

But Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said stricter measures should be taken.

"Well, the justices should be secured. We hope the department will take care of that so that we can ensure that the bulwark of our democracy, which is the judiciary, as well as the leaders of the Supreme Court, should be well protected. Otherwise, there will be some difficulties," Datumanong said.

Delaying tactics

In a counter-motion, government prosecutors slammed the Estrada camp's "dilatory tactics."

"This is not the Rule of Law. This is not even the path of honor. This is the dark alley of cowardice."

In an 18-page motion seeking to "deny and strike off" Estrada's earlier motion to dismiss the plunder case and subpoena the President, the Chief Justice and other high officials to the plunder hearing, special prosecutors said the move was a product of "hallucinations."

"The prosecution can only wonder where accused Joseph Estrada is getting all these hallucinations," Special Prosecutor Dennis M. Villa-Ignacio and deputy special prosecutor Robert E. Kallos said in their motion.

"The Honorable Sandiganbayan has no power of 'judicial review' over the Supreme Court. On the contrary, it is the Supreme Court which possesses the power of judicial review over subordinate courts and tribunals," the prosecutors said.

They also noted that Estrada's actions before the court have placed him on "estoppel."

They noted that in filing motions before the Sandiganbayan, Estrada is already deemed to have "waived" such a defense.

They noted that during the trial, "accused Joseph Estrada participated—interposing objections and cross-examining prosecution witnesses."

In the House, 11 congressmen crossed party lines to urge Estrada to desist from his threat to mobilize "people power." They said Estrada "should not risk the country's welfare with his threat of people power in a bid to regain the presidency." *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Philip Tubeza, Leila Salaverria, Christian Esguerra, Carlito Pablo*

Joker: One for ... Ripley's

By Christine O. Avendaño

INSTEAD of coming up with "gimmicks," supporters of former President Joseph Estrada should back a pending bill in Congress seeking to abolish the death penalty law. The new law would pave the way for his temporary freedom.

The advice came from an unlikely source: Sen. Joker Arroyo, who led House prosecutors in Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate.

Arroyo said the latest legal moves of the Estrada camp were "nutty" and "one for ... Ripley's."

Estrada's new counsel, Allan Paguia, had asked the Sandiganbayan to "reverse" a Supreme Court decision.

'That is just not done, the senator argued. "If that is allowed, there will be no end to litigations and this will cause a disruption to our judicial system," he told reporters.

In a statement he also issued, Arroyo said he found "most disturbing" the way the Estrada camp has gone about its latest move.

"The former President has many lawyers and good ones," he said. "They have not participated in the latest move. Only the newly discovered lawyer does it."

He said that Estrada's lawyers "know that when they ask for something that is an impossibility, something that cannot be done, it becomes a nuisance suit."

Quadruplets spend time in cage, not in school

From page A1

school because she was the sole earner for the family after her husband Bernard, a tricycle driver, was gunned down in Quezon City three years ago.

"They keep telling me that they also wanted to go to school because they envy children going to school in their school bags and uniforms," Cerezo told the INQUIRER in Ilocano.

She said she only earned P50 a day, which was barely enough to buy them rice and instant noodles.

"If I will send them to school, they each need at least P100 a day for a month. Where will I get that?" she said.

The quadruplets play inside the wooden cage as their mother tends the store in Barangay Quirino.

"I placed them there because they might run toward the road and they might be hit by speeding vehicles," Cerezo said.

Promised help

She said she was forced to send her two older children to her relatives to give more attention to rearing the quadruplets.

"I just ignore what other people say when they see my children in their wooden crib. I have to earn so I can feed them," she said.

She said many people had promised them help when the quadruplets' story was published in the INQUIRER in 2001. But Cerezo said she did not know what happened to some of these donations and that they were not briefed on how to access and use the fund for the children.

Among these commitments, apart from cash donation, were a health insurance and a college education plan. The donors included Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani, Rep. Carlos Padilla, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and PhilHealth officials.

Agbayani donated a small house for the Cerezo family in this town while Padilla helped the quadruplets seek out financial help from corporate sponsors.

"I am just worried that I cannot afford to send the children to school. I am also worried about their unstable health condition. I hope we can surpass this crisis," she said.

Donna Osio, a municipal social welfare officer, said Cerezo turned down their offer that the quadruplets stay in the Helgamosi Center, a non-government children's center in Santiago City managed by American NGO workers.

"The kids need more motherly attention than financial support, and we are still trying to find ways to help them," Osio said.

Trust account

Sonny Lugares, a staff member in Padilla's office, said they opened a trust account for the quadruplets with the Philippine National Bank where all financial donations would be deposited.

Lugares, however, did not say how the family could use the money.

The quadruplets were born on Feb. 16, 1999, in a Quezon City hospital.

In 2001, the provincial government created a special health board committee to oversee the sustenance of the then 2-year-old quadruplets.

Sr. Theresina Estalilla, executive director of the St. Francis Mission, earlier said the children had to be closely supervised because they were susceptible to various diseases and vulnerable to other childhood risks.

In 2001, Estalilla presented the Cerezo quadruplets to Dayrit, who promised to provide medical supplies, supplemental vitamins and free medication for the children.

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Mayors' traffic system will be messy, says BF

By Leila Salaverria

IF METRO Manila mayors would insist on creating their own traffic violation tickets and crafting their own traffic rules, they might set a very bad precedent that could only sow confusion in the streets.

This was according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who said that if local chief executives would push through with their plan, then barangay officials could do the same.

"I am worried that barangay officials might also make their own traffic rules (as a result of the mayors' move)," Fernando said in an interview. "If this happens, then the motorists would suffer."

He said the drivers would have to keep track of a lot of rules and would likely be confused.

He said that it would be very hard to educate the public if each of the 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila would have its own set of rules.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that too many entities cranking out traffic rules would cause chaos.

"What if the city decides to turn a road into a one-way street, but another city which has jurisdiction on another part of that road decides the street would remain two-way? That would bring anarchy," he said.

As it is, Vergel de Dios said, most motorists have not mastered the existing traffic rules.

Fernando said that it would be better if only one agency came up with traffic rules so that there would be uniformity.

Fernando also insisted that he and the mayors are not fighting, but merely locked in a "healthy debate."

Yesterday, Fernando gained an unlikely ally in the person of Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association president Claire dela Fuente, a known critic of the MMDA chair.

Dela Fuente said that without the single ticketing system, opportunistic enforcers would prey on bus drivers.

She also opposed the idea of mayors formulating their own traffic rules.

"It will only complicate the traffic rules," she said. "We don't want a chaotic system."

Earlier, the 17 mayors of Metro Manila announced plans to create their own traffic violation ticket and formulate their own traffic rules. Fernando reminded them that only the MMDA has the mandate to implement the ticketing system throughout the metropolis.

Abalos restores demolished road islands

By Nelson Flores

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday ordered the restoration of the center island on Julia Vargas Avenue which the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority demolished last week.

Abalos said the demolition of the islands on San Miguel and Julia Vargas avenues at the Ortigas Center was unauthorized and unnecessary. He noted that he learned of the demolition only through Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio, who saw MMDA personnel breaking up of the concrete base of the islands.

Although no trees were cut in areas that fall in the territorial jurisdiction of Mandaluyong, Abalos went on to ask Fernando to stop the wanton cutting of trees in the metropolis.

Eusebio aired a similar position against Fernando.

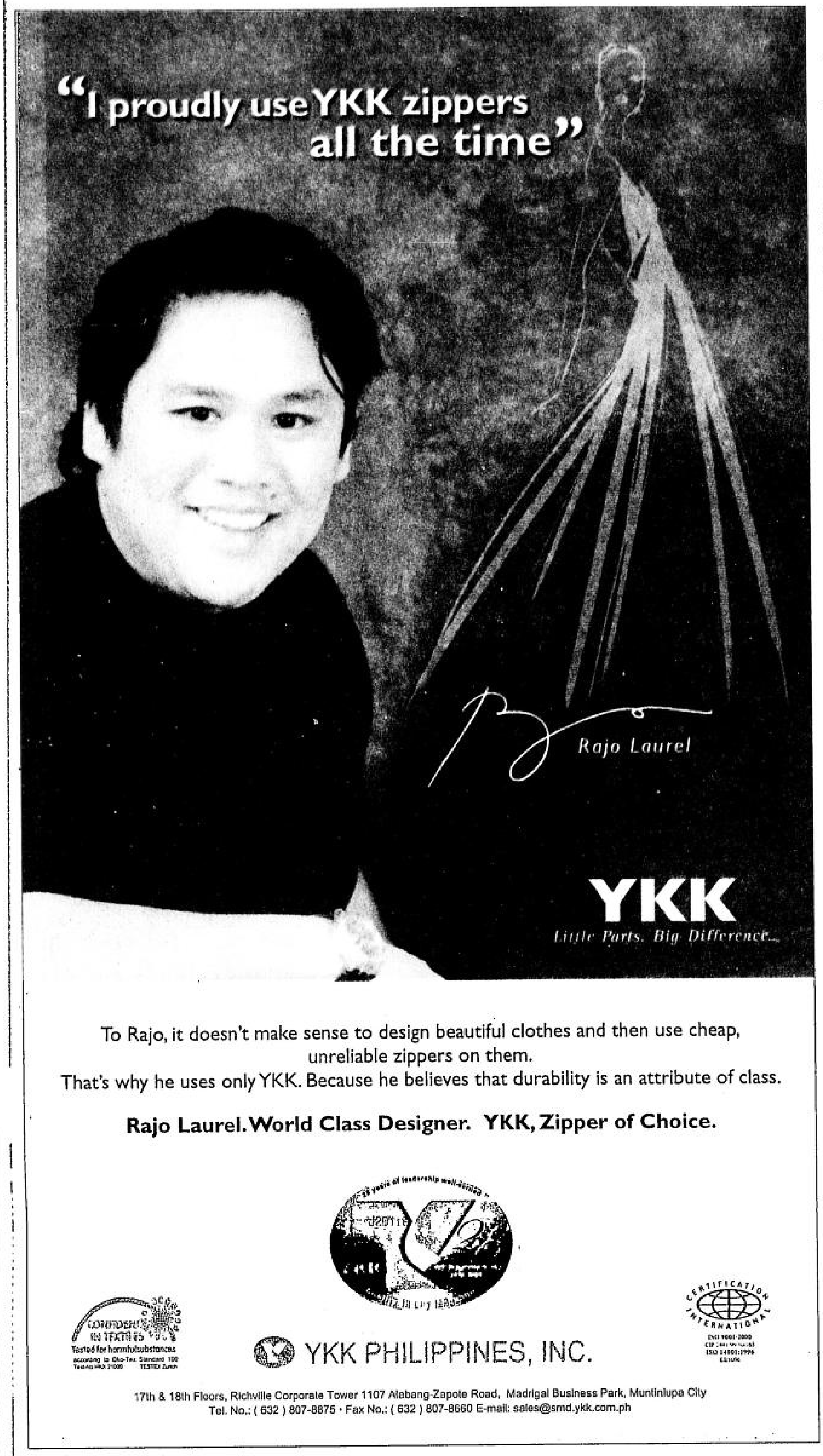
"Sound judgment dictates that it is not practical to cut down trees and demolish the center islands just to test if the traffic scheme would work" Eusebio said. "What if the scheme fails? Who will shoulder the restoration expenses? Can they bring the trees back to life?"

Eusebio said there are other means of solving Metro Manila's traffic congestion other than to cut down trees or demolish center islands.

She said strict and efficient implementation of traffic laws would cut down travel time in the metropolis.

Eusebio said that if the MMDA would continue to destroy the environment, she would support calls by local executive for its abolition.

The MMDA is under fire for its anti-tree operation, the most recent of which is the cutting of century-old trees on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Cops scoff at NBI excuse for releasing official

By Christian V. Esguerra and Luige del Puerto

THE POLICE yesterday branded as a "joke" the reason given by the National Bureau of Investigation for releasing one of the agency's officials accused of extortion.

"Only a fool would buy their claims," said an officer from the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer), one of the units that prepared the case against Dr. Maximo Reyes, head of the NBI Medico-Legal Division.

Reyes was arrested last Thursday inside his office at the NBI Headquarters in Manila after receiving P200,000 he was supposedly extorting from Dr. Lenette Chan, a doctor based in Pangasinan.

An alleged accomplice, Dr. Anthony Castro of the NBI medico-legal office in Dagupan City, has also been arrested.

Despite being caught "in the act," Reyes was released by his colleagues after the NBI failed to file the charges against him within 36 hours.

The NBI said they would have been liable for arbitrary detention had they not released Reyes.

The Pacer officer, who is privy to the case, theorized that the NBI could be buying time so they could pressure the complainant into withdrawing her accusations against Reyes.

"It's obvious that they would try to strike a compromise with the complainant. They want to save Reyes' neck," the source told the INQUIRER.

The officer said Chan could be coerced to accept a compromise since she was also facing an investigation for alleged medical malpractice.

Reyes and Castro allegedly hatched the extortion plot on Chan after one of her patients died following a Caesarian section which the doctor performed.

Castro allegedly offered to tamper with the results of the medico-legal findings on Chan's patient in exchange for P200,000. The transaction was said to have been sanctioned by Reyes.

"The right thing to do," the Pacer officer said, "is to file charges against Reyes and at the same time investigate Chan for possible medical malpractice."

According to the officer, all the evidence prepared by the Pacer that would show that Reyes had tried to extort from Chan were turned over to the NBI on June 11, the day he was arrested.

These included Chan's complaint-affidavit and documents showing that Reyes had received the money, the source said.

"They have everything," he said. "All they have to do is file the case."

But NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said they wanted an "airtight" case before filing charges against Reyes.

"We don't want people to think we filed a case that lacked evidence just so Doctor Reyes could get away with it," Wycoco told reporters.

He added, "*Pangit mag-akusa kapag hindi kumpleto ang dokumento* (It's not good to file charges if the documents are incomplete)."

Wycoco, however, vowed that they would file graft charges against Reyes "not later than Thursday."

Meanwhile, NBI Deputy Director for Technical Services Alejandro Tenerife said the police had no reason to get mad at them for the release of Reyes.

"They would have done the same thing," Tenerife, the direct superior of Reyes, said in a telephone interview.

Doc in extort case fears harassment

THE DOCTOR from Pangasinan who fell victim to alleged extortion by National Bureau of Investigation medico-legal officers is afraid that the officials might get back at her for exposing their activities, a close friend of the doctor has said.

"She has not had a good night's sleep for almost three months since she was first approached by the medico-legal officers," a friend of Dr. Lenette (not Lenet, as earlier reported) Chan said.

Supt. Raul Petrasanta, Urdaneta City police chief, confirmed Chan's fears.

"She is up against very influential people who have connections with powerful personalities in the government, so naturally she is afraid," Petrasanta said.

He did not say if Chan had received death threats.

Chan's complaint has led to the arrest of Dr. Maximo Reyes, the chief of the NBI's Medico-Legal Division, and Dr. Anthony Castro of the NBI medico-legal office in Dagupan City. *(See related story)*

In a telephone interview from Dagupan City, Chan explained that the patient actually died in a hospital in Dagupan City and not in her clinic in Rosales town.

"I only wish to correct reports that the patient died while undergoing the operation in my clinic in (Barangay) Carmen, Rosales. First, I could not have performed that operation in my clinic because the clinic did not have the facilities. The operation was done at the Holy Child Hospital in Urdaneta City on March 2," she said.

She added that the patient was transferred to the Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Hospital in Dagupan City on March 4 and where she died on March 9.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

STUDENTS of the Bagong Bayan Elementary School in Navotas have no choice but to go home as their school remained under water for the second day since schools opened last Monday. ERIK ARAZAS

Floods still kept them out of schools

By Tina Santos

THE SECOND day of classes in Malabon and Navotas yesterday was suspended because of floods.

Worsening the floods was high tide of Manila Bay, reportedly reaching as high as 2 meters and spilling into the low-lying areas of Malabon and Navotas.

As early as 9 a.m. yesterday, Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio and Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco suspended classes in public elementary and high schools there.

In perennially flooded Malabon, 7 out of 21 barangays were under water.

Vicencio has mobilized all local agencies to respond quickly to emergency situations and strictly monitor the flood situation in several barangays.

In Barangay Tugatog, floodwaters were waist-deep as early as 9 a.m. Several streets were also not passable to light vehicles.

Floods in Maysilo, Ibaba, Hulong Duhat were knee-deep, while water rose ankle-deep in Tanong, Tonsuya and Concepcion.

Navotas information officer Gerry Doringo said at least four of the 16 barangays were underwater. The affected areas were Daanghari, San Jose, North Bay Boulevard South and Apahap.

In Valenzuela City, floodwaters were ankle- to knee-deep in five of the city's 32 barangays.

Barangays Arkong Bato, Coloong, Balangkas, Malanday and Dalandanan were placed by city hall officials on a watch list.

Classes in some schools, particularly those located near the Tullahan River, were also suspended in the afternoon due to high tide.

Caloocan City suffered the least, with flooding limited only to Dagat-Dagatan. But hundreds of families living on the banks of flood-swollen Marilao River were evacuated to safer grounds.

Ouch! This shot hurts

By Luige del Puerto

A BODYGUARD lost a testicle after his service firearm accidentally went off while he was tucking the gun in his waist, Manila police said yesterday.

The 30-year-old bodyguard was preparing for work inside his home in Ermita when he injured himself, said SPO4 Cecillo Sacorum.

"He was tucking a .45 pistol in his waist when the gun suddenly went off," Sacorum said.

Police said the bullet hit one of his testicles and his right thigh.

The bodyguard was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital, police said.

"He was okay when I checked on him today. He was having a hard time walking, but he was fine," Sacorum said.

He said the bodyguard had become extremely embarrassed after the incident.

"He did not even want to talk to me," he said.

Pasay teachers see red over students' dyed hair

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

DYED hair might make one look trendy, hip and even funky.

But school officials of the Padre Zamora Elementary School in Pasay City don't think dyed hair is cool.

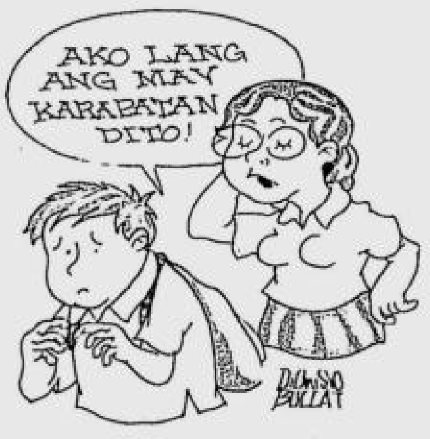
In fact, teachers of the school yesterday scolded some students because of the color of their hair.

Grade 4 student Jerome Canoza said his teacher had told him yesterday that he could not go to school with his hair colored red.

After hearing Canoza's plight, another Grade 4 student, Robertson Mayor, said he would have his hair dyed black immediately. His hair has orange streaks.

Grade 6 student Robert Flores also said his teacher had told him that dyed hair is banned in class after the teacher saw the golden yellow streaks in his hair.

The school's principal, Josefina Bañez, whose own hair is dyed, said she reminded her teachers about the no-dyed-hair rule which is being implementing for some time now.


AKO LANG ANG MAY KARAPATAN DITO!
DANSO BULLAT

"It is part of school discipline," Bañez said, tossing back her light brown hair. She said that they were also prohibiting their male students from wearing earrings.

But her teachers are exempted from the no-dyed-hair rule.

"Teachers want to dye their hair to be 'in' and to look presentable," Bañez said.

2 big fires rage in heavy rains

By Tarra Quismundo and Tina Santos

THE RAINS could not stop fires from razing down a two-story furniture warehouse in Caloocan City yesterday, and an apartment in Malate, Manila on Monday.

In the Caloocan fire, about 20 fire trucks arrived at the scene to put out the blaze which razed an estimated P4 million worth of furniture and plastic products at Hand Over Furniture, on Mascardo Street in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City.

But nobody was injured, and the fire was put out at 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

Arson investigators have yet to determine what triggered the blaze.

In the Malate fire, damage was placed at P1.5 million.

The fire started at the ceiling of the second floor of the two-storey apartment of Leonor Cruz at 2242 Singalong Street.

The fire was first reported at 6:28 p.m. It reached the 5th alarm at 6:58 p.m., according to FO3 Gaudencio Magallanes, the officer-on-case.

The blaze was extinguished about two hours later, Magallanes said.

The cause of the fire is still being investigated, Magallanes said.

Funds, services urged for Navotas settlers

NAVOTAS Mayor Toby Tiangco yesterday said Malabon must provide funds for the social costs and basic services of about 2,500 urban poor families who would be relocated to his town to give way to the government's Metro-Clark rail project.

The affected families live along the railways in Malabon.

Tiangco said there were certain talking points that needed to be addressed before the settlers could be moved to the proposed resettlement site in his town.

He said without the funds, the resettlement of the residents might not be possible.

Tiangco said the funds were needed to offset the social costs of the relocation, including delivery of basic services, education, garbage disposal, health services and other services that would become the obligation of the municipal government after the settlers have made Navotas their new home. *Tina Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Auction postponed

THE PASAY City government has again postponed the auction of the 70-hectare property of the Public Estates Authority. PEA General Manager Teodorico Taguinod said that he had discussed plans with Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad to turn over 3.25 hectares of PEA property to the city to pay off the agency's tax liability. But Taguinod was quick to add that the PEA board still has to decide whether to accept the plans. Phydias Ramos, Pasay City's legal officer, said the PEA owes the city more than P1.5 billion in real property tax. The auction, which was initially scheduled in February, had been postponed to June 5 and again, on July 5. *Edson Tandoc*

Cola drinkers killed

VICTOR Puno and Orlando Cabuso were shot to death while they were drinking softdrinks in Quiapo, Manila on Monday. Police said that they are facing a blank wall after witnesses refused to cooperate in the investigation. Police said Puno, 23, and Cabuso, about 40 years old, both natives of Pampanga, were in front of a house on Elizonso Street drinking softdrinks when two armed men shot the victims. Puno was hit in the head and killed on the spot. Cabuso was taken to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz but was pronounced dead on arrival, police said. *Luigo del Puerto*

Demolition in Tondo

RESIDENTS of Dagupan Extension in Tondo, Manila on Monday sought the help of the Manila Regional Trial Court to stop Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. and city engineers Joseph Bolanon and Deogracias Tablan from demolishing their homes. In their affidavit, members of the neighborhood association Kapit Bisig ng Dagupan Ext. Tondo Inc. claimed that the mayor and city engineers have no right to order the demolition because the city government allegedly had failed to get clearance from the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor. But Atienza yesterday said that the city would continue to remove thoroughfare "obstructions" like the complainants' houses. "They have no right to say that the demolitions are illegal because their houses are standing on public property—the roads," the mayor said. *Margaux Ortiz*

Corpus Christi feast

BLESSED Sacrament Parish, South City Homes, Biñan, Laguna, will celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi on June 22, with a concelebrated Mass to be led by Bishop Francisco C. San Diego, D.D. Fr. Alexius V. Magtibay, OSJ, parish priest, said that Masses will be held from June 13 to June 21. There will be a free medical and dental checkup on June 11, a sportsfest and singing contest on June 21 and a procession on fiesta night. For information, please call the parish office at (049) 241-7828 c/o Ms Letty Sortido.

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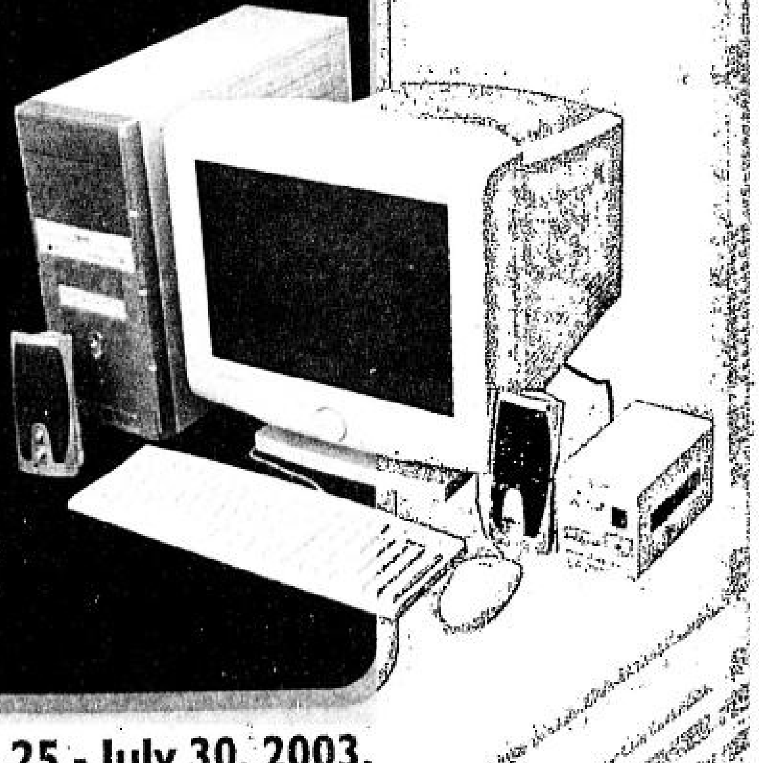
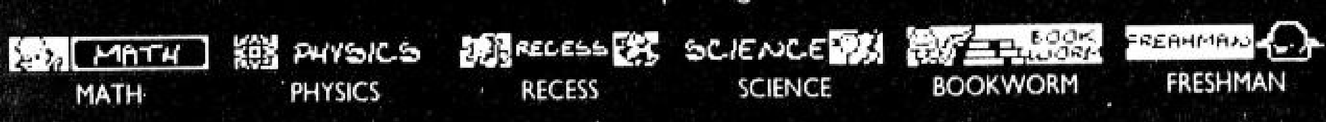


Sample Logos



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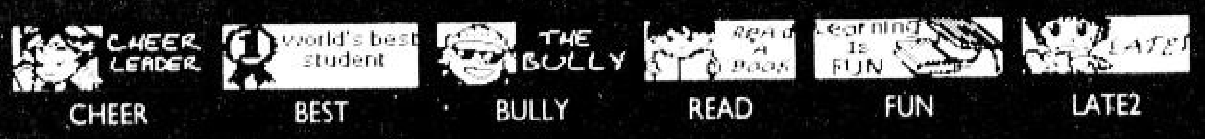

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The Golf Club 2003; 3:30 p.m.; Star Sports—Find out more about the gentleman's game in this weekly program.
TENNIS: Wimbledon Films; 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (r) and 8 p.m.; Star Sports—Take a look back at the highlights from the 1999 and 2000 editions of the most popular tennis tournament on grass.

Compiled by L. Manguiat

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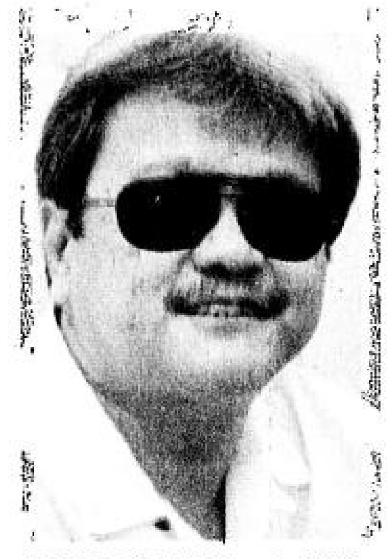
'I accompanied him to the CR'



COMMISSIONER Barredo: Willing to face charges to clear his name.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commissioner Mike Barredo asked the janitress if she came into his room all alone. The 22-year-old girl said yes. Barredo, visually impaired, politely asked her to accompany him to the comfort room. She obliged.

These details form the core of the charge sheet obtained from Baguio City Prosecutor Benedicto Carrantes last Monday which contained the accusations against Barredo.

As alleged by the janitress, who charged she had been sexually harassed by Barredo, the commissioner then made his move, locked the door, caught her in a tight embrace and started caressing her against her will.

PSC chair Eric Buhain said he will submit that same report to Malacañang and let no less than President Arroyo decide on the fate of Barredo, who vehemently denied all charges against him.

Buhain, who appeared with Barredo at yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion, said he will take a hands-off policy on the sexual harassment case which has dragged the agency into its biggest scandal since 1993.

The PSC chair said he received the report, which contained the ordeal of the janitress assigned to clean Barredo's cottage in Teachers' Camp in the morning of June 8 in Baguio City, from City Prosecutor Benedicto Carrantes late Monday.

With his wife Barbara at her side, Barredo claimed that "my conscience is clear. I didn't do anything wrong and I'm willing to face all charges to clear my name, protect my family and the PSC."

Barredo said he won't take a leave of absence, let alone resign, and will instead continue going about his duties as chief of sectoral sports which takes care of differently abled athletes and women in sports.

"I can't believe that anybody can just accuse someone of something as grave as sexual harassment," said Barredo.

Buhain, who was still an athlete-activist in 1993 when a national diver accused then PSC commissioner Jun Castro of sexual molestation, said he can't fire or even suspend Barredo as his hiring and firing power is only applicable to the level of the executive director down to the rank-and-file.

New PBA semis sked displeases coaches

GAMES ON FRIDAY (*Philsports Arena*)
5 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk N' Text
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Sta. Lucia

By Dennis U. Eroa

AS IT turned out, the foot injury suffered by Kenneth Duremdes is not as serious as originally feared. This means he could rejoin his Sta. Lucia team in practice this weekend.

That's one good news Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes cannot be too happy about.

In fact, Reyes, whose coaching savvy helped Coca-Cola to reach the semifinals of the Samsung All-Filipino Cup, yesterday expressed disappointment following the sudden change of schedule as ordered by Commissioner Noli Eala.

"My players were ready to play. They're looking forward to playing on Wednesday, not Friday," said Reyes. "On Sunday they gave the original schedule. Then a day later they changed it. *Sa iba ko pa nalaman.*"

Reyes was also peeved that the PBA gave different excuses for moving the schedule.

"*Iba-iba ang* justification. *Bagyo*, opening *ng* classes and then to hype the series," said Reyes.

The Phone Pals battle the Alaska Aces in a best-of-five semifinals at the Philsports Arena. Coca-Cola meets Sta. Lucia in the other half of the semifinals showdown.

Commissioner Eala said he reset the start of the semis due to the opening of classes. He said moving the first day of the semis will enable fans to enjoy a great weekend of PBA Final Four.

Reyes did not say it, but he would have been

NEW/ A27

PSC plans new Palaro format

MORE than 7,000 student-athletes will be tapped to join the Palarong Pambansa through their respective local government units (LGUs) when the event is finally held in Tubod, Lanao del Norte anytime this year.

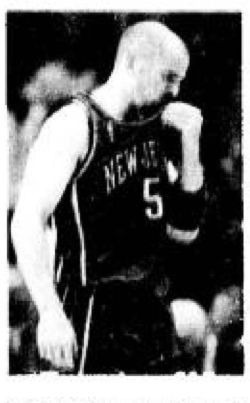
Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain announced yesterday that while he can't force regional directors to send delegations to the Palaro, he is making an arrangement with the Department of Education on the possibility of taking in Palaro participants through their respective LGUs.

The idea, according to Buhain, could pave the way for an eventual change of format in the Palaro which has depended on the DepEd regional machinery since its creation in 1948.

Buhain said it's about time the LGUs got involved in the preparation of the athletes seeing action in the annual meet like what's happening in the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy and what will be implemented in the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Games.

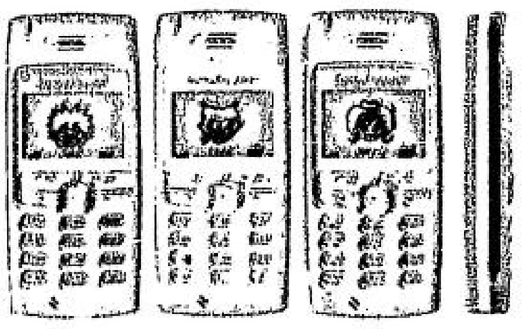
Marc Anthony Reyes

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ New Kidd on Spurs block? /A26

■ PBL: Hapee rips Viva, forces KO tiff /A27



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New Kidd on Spurs block?

JASON KIDD: Looking for a better team. AFP

SAN ANTONIO—When the San Antonio Spurs hold their ring ceremony 4 1/2 months from now, they'll bear only a passing resemblance to the championship squad that finished off the Nets in six games.

David Robinson will be retired. Steve Kerr might be. Steve Smith, Danny Ferry and Speedy Claxton will likely be playing elsewhere. Stephen Jackson and Kevin Willis could be gone, too.

Only five San Antonio players–Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili, Malik Rose and Bruce Bowen –are under contract for next season when the Spurs will try to win a Western Conference that figures to be even stronger.

The Los Angeles Lakers will likely have a new power forward, and the Dallas Mavericks will try to get tougher along the front line, too. Both teams might make a play for Karl Malone, one of many premier free agents available this summer.

No free agent will be more coveted than Jason Kidd, whose comments after Game 6 made it sound as though returning to the Nets was anything but certain.

"This is my second time coming short of winning that championship trophy. So I've got to find a team –or stay with the Nets– that has a better chance of winning that championship trophy. That's what I play this game for," Kidd said Sunday night.

Nobody asked Spurs coach Gregg Popovich at the news conference after the victory: Does he think Kidd will come south on July 16 when he's free to sign anywhere?

Kidd and Gary Payton are the only premiere point guards available on the free agent market, while the list of unsigned big men includes Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal and Brad Miller, Michael Olowokandi of the Clippers, Alonzo Mourning of Miami and P.J. Brown of the Hornets.

If the Spurs decide to target Kidd, they can offer him a starting salary equal to 30 percent of the salary cap with 10 percent annual raises over the life of a six-year deal.

New Jersey can give Kidd the same starting salary with 12.5 percent annual raises.

"Obviously this is going to be a big summer for us," Nets coach Byron Scott said. "J-Kidd, he's a basketball player but he's a business person also.

Now having wrapped up the title with an 88-77 Game Six win Sunday, the Spurs are expected to focus their attention on Kidd and uniting him with their two-time league MVP Tim Duncan giving the Spurs a one-two punch that would rival Lakers' duo of Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

The Nets, however, are not likely to let the 30-year-old get away without a fight.

"Everybody knows how important he (Kidd) is," said Nets coach Byron Scott. "He's the engine to this team, he makes us go.

The Spurs will have $15 million of salary cap money to toss around with the retirement of David Robinson and indications are they are ready to throw it Kidd's way. *AP*

KARL MALONE: Lakers might make a play for him. AP

Hewitt, not Agassi, is Wimby top seed

LONDON—Last year's champion Lleyton Hewitt has been made top seed for next week's Wimbledon championships, ahead of world No.1 Andre Agassi.

Unlike every other tournament in the world, Wimbledon refuses to stick to the ATP's world rankings, instead combining rankings and grasscourt form over recent years when determining men's seeds.

Britain's Tim Henman also profited. Four times a semifinalist at the grasscourt grand slam, he was seeded 10th on Monday despite being ranked just 29th in the world.

The decision to seed Australian world No. 2 Hewitt top and to elevate Henman some 19 places is sure to stoke the debate about Wimbledon's controversial seeding methods.

However, the tournament does stick to the women's world rankings for their seeds.

World No.1 and defending champion Serena Williams was seeded top, followed by Belgians Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne, with Serena's sister Venus seeded fourth.

Agassi took over from Hewitt at the top of the rankings this week after reaching the semifinals of the Stella Artois Championships, becoming the oldest world No.1–at 33– since rankings began in 1973.

French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero has been seeded third. The rest of the first 10 seeds: Roger Federer, fourth; Andy Roddick, fifth; David Nalbandian, sixth; Guillermo Coria, seventh; Sjeng Schalken, eighth; Rainer Schuettler, ninth. *Reuters*

Unusual champs, unusual season

FURYK: Unorthodox swing.

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Illinois —Jim Furyk welcomed his breakthrough major victory at the US Open not only for the immediate glow of triumph but as a vindication of his whole golfing career.

For years, whether as an amateur or professional, Furyk's unorthodox swing–taught by his father, Mike–was frowned upon and at times ridiculed.

But after securing a three-shot victory at Olympia Fields on Sunday, Furyk, accompanied every step of the way by his dad on Father's Day, knew there was no ammunition for his critics.

"What I've done as a person and a golfer, I owe to my family," the 33-year-old American said. "They have made so many sacrifices.

"To have my Dad out there on the final round of my first major was so special. He's been my only teacher but, when I was a junior, he took a beating because of my swing.

"Me making it on (the PGA) Tour was a kind of validation and this is a big step forward that we can share together." Mike Furyk, recalling his son's first steps in the game 25 years ago, told the Chicago Tribune on Monday: "I said to Jim, 'I'll drop you off at tournaments but I won't really follow you because golf has a lot of pressure and all I will do is add to it'. *Reuters*

Brazil's depth cushions absences of 3 W'Cup stars

SAINT-DENIS, France—Perhaps only five-time World Cup winner Brazil could be confident while missing Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos.

After a light practice session Monday at the Stade de France, where Brazil will play Cameroon on Thursday in its opening match of the Confederations Cup, two of the team's other stars and recently returned coach Carlos Alberto Parreira declared that all is well for the South American powerhouse.

Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos are skipping the eight-nation tournament while their club team –Real Madrid–closes out its Spanish league season, and Rivaldo has decided to rest after a mentally tough season at AC Milan.

"We know Brazil always has quality and we always have a lot of players, so it's not a problem," AS Roma midfielder Emerson said.

If all goes as planned, Emerson will finally wear the captain's armband in a major international tournament for the first time since he was injured and ruled out of last year's World Cup.

Besides Cameroon, Brazil's group includes Turkey and the United States. *AP*

Royals hold off Twins in thriller

KANSAS CITY, Missouri—Raul Ibanez singled home Carlos Beltran .in the ninth inning as the Kansas City Royals blew an eight-run lead and still beat the Minnesota Twins 9-8 Monday.

Mike Sweeney homered and drove in five runs as the Royals took an 8-0 lead after six innings.

The Twins scored two runs in the seventh, three in the eighth and then three in the ninth against closer Mike MacDougal (3-3) to tie the game. *AP*

IBANEZ (center) is congratulated by teammates after the win. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Golf tour tomorrow

JEROME Delariarte and Juvic Pagunsan will head the field when the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour and Putting Challenge kicks off tomorrow (Thursday, June 19) at the treacherous Forest Hills Golf and Country Club course in Antipolo City. Delariarte, the back-to-back national champion, will carry the Southwoods colors, while SEAG titlist Pagunsan spearheads Canlubang when they vie for honors in three handicap divisions for men and two for women. With eight elimination legs scheduled in the next eight months, the Samsung series is designed to keep local players competitive all year especially the members of the national pool.

Manila swimfest set

THE 4TH Mayor's Cup Swimming Championships get under way as part of the Araw ng Maynila celebrations on June 21 at the Rizal Memorial pool. The Manila Sea Hawks, in cooperation with the Manila Sports Council, is hosting the event as part of the Araw ng Maynila festivities. Ali Atienza, son of Mayor Lito Atienza and chair of the Masco, said that deadline for submission of entries is June 21, at 3 p.m. Inquiries may be directed to Bert Lozada at 563-5532 or at fax no. 564-6124.

Guya, Acosta ahead

TYRONE Guya and Ramil Acosta shared the limelight by taking the lead in their respective divisions after three legs of the 2003 Philippine Executive Chess Express (Peace) 2003 at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate. Guya, representing Nippon Life, seized top spot from defending champion Jenny Mayor in the Elite section, while Acosta of DECS moved ahead in the Classic division. Guya and Acosta have 51 points each going into the fourth leg on June 28. The monthly chess tilt is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) with the support of Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank. Mayor dropped to second with 47 points, while Rey Reyes is two points behind Acosta.

F3 tilt in Batangas

CASTROL-Ambi Pur-Team Goddard eyes the overall title anew when the third and fourth rounds of the Addict Mobile Formula 3 Grand Prix reel off at the Batangas Racing Circuit on June 21 and 22. The prestigious event is backed by Addict Mobile, Yokohama, Denso, Regional Container Lines, RX 93.1 and Joey 92.3. Highlights of the meet will be shown on the show Speed over ABC-5 on Sunday at 11 p.m. Mark Goddard heads the cast in the international class. For more details, call AF3 at 833-8795 and 833-8392, or visit www.asianf3.net.

Berry, Salud shine

ENTRIES of noted American cocker-breeder Chuck Berry and former PBA chief Rudy Salud showed the early lead after scoring two straight wins each in the opener of the World Slasher 8-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Berry scored through Firefly Thunderbird and Blue Duck, while Salud shone through Ram Lopez and Big Fight sa Cavite-July 5. The blockbuster affair resumes today, with the second set of two-cock matches. Hosts are Nene Araneta, Ito Ynares and Jun Santiago.

RP spikers to Japan

AIMING to gain international exposure, the Philippine men's volleyball squad left yesterday to participate in the prestigious 15th Asia-Pacific Cup Men's Volleyball Championship in Fukuoka, Japan, slated June 18-21. The Philippine team, made up of tall and young spikers, is joining its first tournament after a hiatus of three years. The squad boasts an average height of 6-foot-3, with the tallest standing at 6-7, and only two players standing below six feet. Coach is Song Ho Young, a former national junior coach in Korea, while head of delegation is former national mentor August Sta. Maria.

Pacquiao needs serious repairs

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(LAUNCH: Ted Lerner, accomplished boxing writer and commentator, launches his second book "The Traveler and the Gate Checkers" tonight at the Jools on P. Burgos St., Makati City. Ted says his book is about "sex, death, life on the road to Asia.")

***

GAUNT, thin and dusky, the shoe repair man came knocking at the door yesterday morning. He was told to go to Manny Pacquiao instead.

Sorry, the poor guy said, but he doesn't do fighting shoes.

Well, truth is, it's not the footwear but Pacquiao himself who needs serious repairs.

Pacquiao has indeed gained popular acceptance. But after his latest misadventure, handlers of the International Boxing Federation super bantamweight champion may have no choice but get Pacquiao an expert repair man.

Pacquiao's image needs some fresh remake following that ugly main event inside a beer joint in General Santos City last week.

***

Pacquiao handlers, led by Rod Nazario, hit it right when they enrolled their boy under the world renowned Freddie Roach gym around Hollywood.

Roach, the perfect man to repair the loose, devil-may-care Pacquiao style, led the big-hearted, big-punching GenSan native to the world crown.

But subsequent off-ring events in Pacquiao's career have made it appear he was not too far from following the footsteps of the fallen, ill-starred Rolando Navarette, reigning bad boy of Philippine boxing.

There was that no-show in the awards night of the Philippine Sportswriters Association which was to bestow Pacquiao its highest honor.

Pacquiao did make amends and said he failed to take the plane to Manila after he was downed by a bum stomach.

There were however claims Pacquiao got tied down trying to recoup losses in a pool game, wherein he had reportedly wagered and eventually lost a fortune.

Anyway, while he was supposed to be deep in training for his July 26 title defense against an awesome, unbeaten challenger, Pacquiao hit the headlines again with that wild display of beer-bottle breaking techniques inside a bar.

He was said to have turned tables, kicked and pushed down parked motorcycles, and even hit a security guard. There were also reports he was with armed bodyguards.

Pacquiao, naturally, denied everything; although he also apologized and meekly paid up for the damages in the drunken commotion.

***

There was actually one elderly reporter who went against the trend and helped Pacquiao deny all accusations.

However, once finally informed of the real score, this reporter himself warned that Pacquiao could be slowly and surely going the way of former world boxing champ Rolando Navarette.

Well, speaking of seasoned mediamen, Hermie Rivera, maker of world boxing champions, swears the President hit it right in naming Milt Alingod his new press secretary.

Alingod, in case you're wondering, is one of the best, if not the best, guys around when it comes to information management.

But, hey, Hermie cries, not even a tested expert like Milt can save Pacquiao.

Why? If he's still bar-hopping five weeks before his title defense, it goes without saying Pacquiao has gone out of control.

Meanwhile, his handlers could only look and wince as Pacquiao continues to make a fool of himself.

If he doesn't wake up and mend his ways, he'd end up crashing in fragments.

Only Pacquiao can repair himself now.

PBL: Hapee rips Viva, forces KO tiff

People need jobs, not gambling

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon should take the cue and abandon the idea of supporting the opening of a casino in Boracay because President Macapagal-Arroyo is firmly against any form of gambling in the country.

"*Ayaw nating nagpapairal ng kultura ng sugal* (We don't want to propagate a culture of gambling)," the President once said, stressing that she is against any form of gambling because it undermines the moral fiber of the people.

Gordon should heed the call of Ms Macapagal. The DOT official should not encourage gambling among the people. Whether locals or visitors. In these hard times, the government should be providing more jobs instead of gambling opportunities. We should put a stop to this gambling mania because gambling destroys the lives of people and, as I have said before, there is nothing to gain from it, so why do we have to go through it?

The government should preach the highest standards in public life, but its seems to practice a different standard in the case of Gordon. In an interview recently, Gordon was quoted as saying he was supporting the opening of a casino in Boracay (exclusively for tourists) because the benefits that would accrue to the island "far outweigh" the concerns aired by the residents. "They like the idea of a casino very much."

Still, I an not buying that pitch.

According to our reporter Jerome Aning, several Boracay residents, including resort operators, have been calling radio stations in Manila to air their opposition to the casino. They said the casino will only tarnish Boracay's image as a "family tourist destination," adding that pretty soon Boracay could very well become a gambling island where tourists would come to gamble and not to enjoy its world-famous white beaches.

On the other hand, the Catholic Church is also worried, saying, "People know that gambling is something they should not do. They should know that gambling is not the way to earn money. God does not approve of that."

For the sake of the Filipino people, let's stop this propensity to promote gambling in our strife-torn country.

***

JAWO SLAMS PAGCOR. Sen. Robert Jaworski has assailed anew the operation of Internet gambling between the government and the private sector where Filipinos can place bets based on the "ending" of a basketball game. Saying that gambling is addictive and that it is harmful to society as well, Jaworski, a former superstar in the Philippine Basketball Association, is asking the Supreme Court to stop Internet gambling operated by local company SAGE (Sports and Games Entertainment Corp.) through a franchise granted by Pagcor (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.).

In his petition filed two years ago to the Supreme Court, the 56-year-old Jaworski stressed that Pagcor does not have the character to grant a franchise to local firms to operate Internet gambling or online casino. Jaworski said he was expecting the Supreme Court to stop Internet gambling following the Supreme Court's earlier order to close down jai alai operations. Pagcor granted Sage an exclusive license to operate online casino in the country starting on Sept. 1, 1998 and lasting up to 2005.

GAME TOMORROW (*Pasig Sports Center*)
3 p.m.—Viva vs Hapee

By Dennis U. Eroa

HAPEE Toothpaste spoiled Viva Mineral Water's victory party with a convincing 80-65 victory yesterday and sent the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup best-of-five championship series into a knockout match at the Pasig Sports Center.

Viva, which is bidding to become only the second team in PBL history to win a title in its first try, started with aplomb but fell apart in the final half when Hapee used a crippling zone defense.

The win enabled the Lamoiyan-owned franchise to tie the title series at 2-2. Hapee will enjoy momentum when it goes for the kill in Game Five tomorrow.

Veteran playmakers Eugene Tan took charge with his sparkling plays which nearly netted him the series' first triple double with nine points, nine assists and 10 rebounds even as Allan Salangsang, Peter June Simon and Nino Gelig shone in the offensive end with their double-digit scoring.

"This is not the time yet for celebrating. We still need a win to become champions," said coach Junel Baculi, who earlier vowed to send the game into a decider.

Baculi, however, should find comfort in the gallant plays of the Sparklers as typified by Salangsang, who continued to play despite suffering a bad fall early in the second quarter and Hapee ahead by two, 20-18.

With the sting of Viva's running game gone and its shooters unable to pierce the zone, Hapee surged to a 68-52 lead early in the fourth period.

With Tan ruling the backcourt, the Sparklers simply coasted to the end as the Water Force failed to put up a decent challenge.

Scores:

HAPEE 80—Salangsang 18, Simon 16, Gelig 15, Tan 9, Benedicto 8, Alvarez 8, Mercado 4, Gonzales 2, Dualan 0, Tenorio 0, Dy 0.

VIVA 65—Sinco 15, Co 8, Misolas 8, Miranda 8, Napa 6, Ybanez 6, Jones 6, Catli 4, Razon 2, Margate 2, Isip 0.

Quarters: 14-16, 44-39, 66-52, 80-65.

HAPEE topscorer Joseph Salangsang (left) is fouled by Viva's Gerard Jones. JESS YUSON

New sked displeases coaches

From page A25

gladder with a Wednesday start as this would mean Duremdes could be out for at least a couple of games in the best-of-five semis series.

The PBA held a press conference yesterday to hype the semifinals at the Harbor View Restaurant in Manila. Present were Eala, Talk N' Text's Joel Banal and Sta. Lucia's Alfrancis Chua, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino, and leading rookie of the year candidate Jimmy Alapag.

Banal also admitted the new schedule will result to new adjustments for Talk N' Text.

"Well, we can't do anything about it already. Commissioner Eala had already explained the reasons for the Friday games and we've learned to accept it," said Banal.

Banal, who also confirmed that he will soon leave his Talk N' Text coaching duties to concentrate on Ateneo's title retention bid in the coming UAAP, predicted that the semifinals may reach five games.

LPC cagers win

LAS Piñas College leaned on Dennis Daa and Dondon Mordeno in the fourth quarter to shock University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 89-80, at the start of the Grudge Games of Champions League 2003 yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

The Huskies trailed for three quarters until coming alive in the last 10 minutes as Daa poured 12 of his 29 points and Mordeno chipped in 8 of his 12.

LPC trailed 66-59 going to the fourth period before outgunning UPHR, 30-14, the rest of the way.

The switch from a man-to-man to a 2-3 zone late in the third quarter apparently caught the Altas by surprise as they turned cold in the last quarter.

UPHR committed 30 turnovers (to LPC's 18), yielding to the Huskies 27 points of those miscues.

Tomorrow's games pit UM against PCU at 2 p.m., and UP against SSC at 4 p.m.

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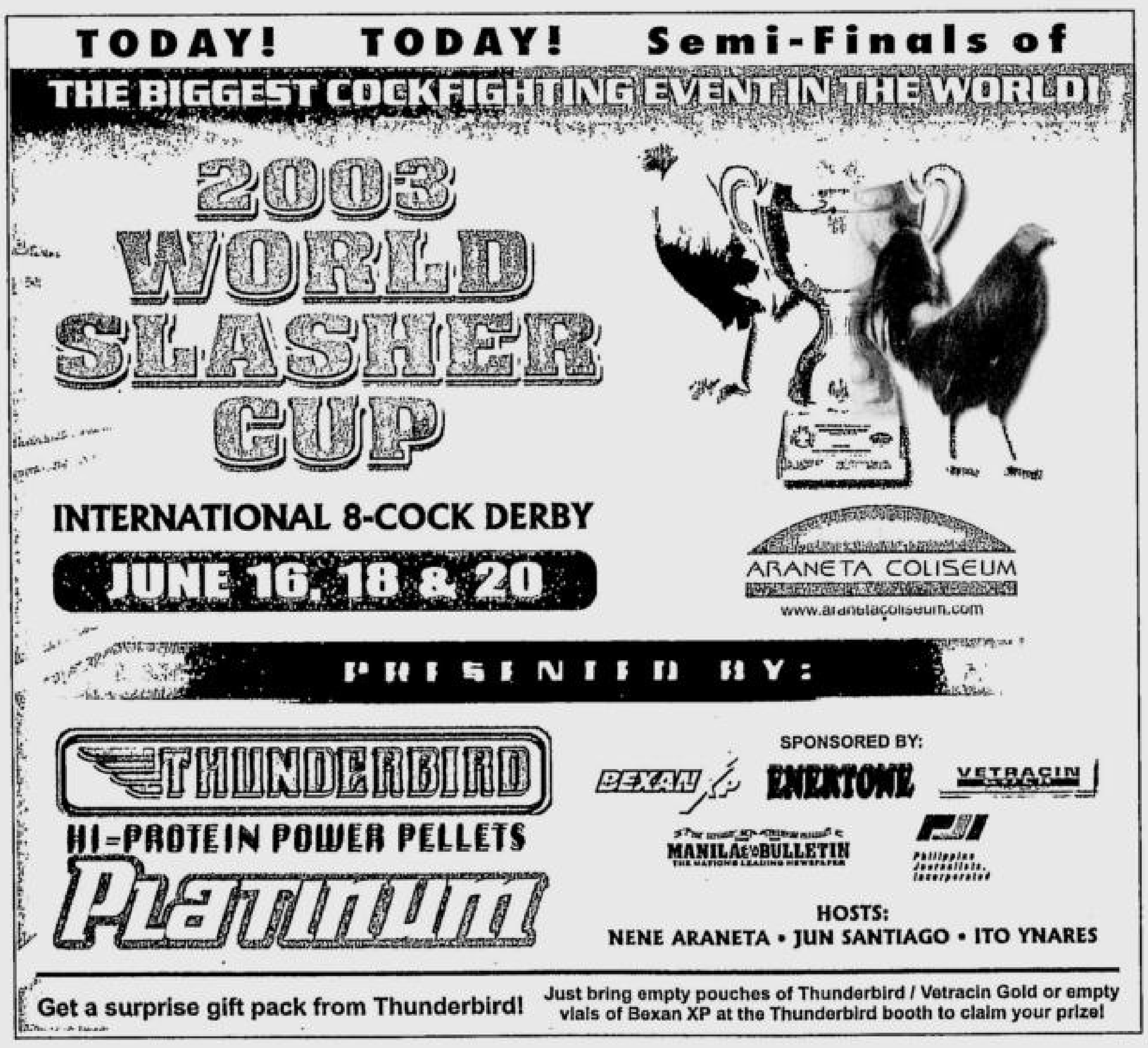
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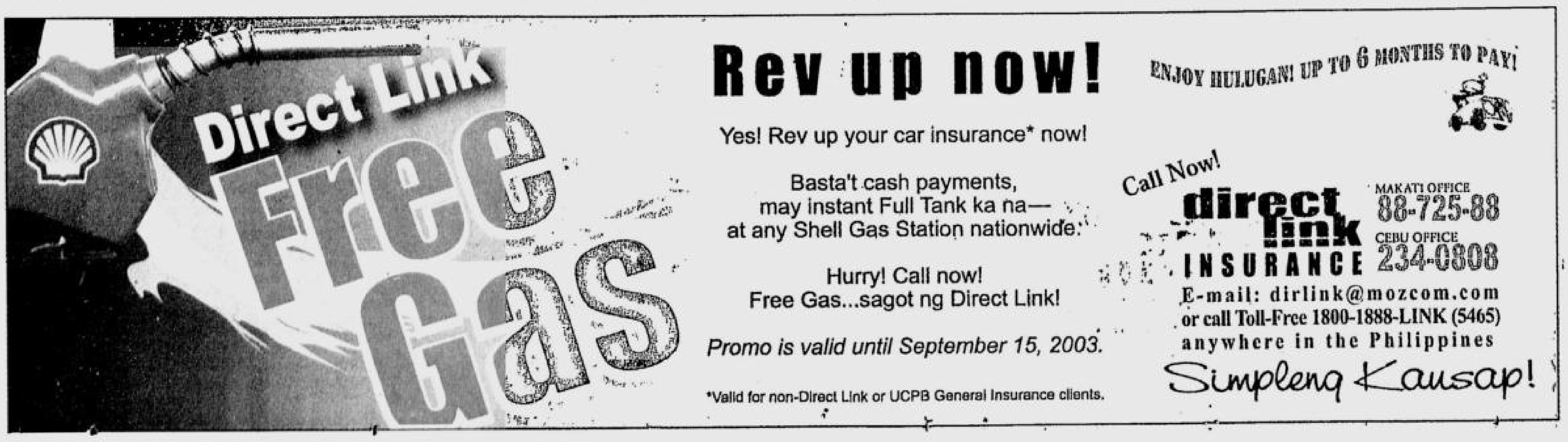
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What not to say on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT'S time for TV hosts and their guests to rethink what they say on the tube, and why they say it. These days, the television screen is spewing out so much gibberish garbage and clichés that irritated viewers are turning out in droves. What are the kneejerk statements they hear that ticks them off the most?

Topping the list is the much too prevalent use of "actually." Some people on TV use it as often as they say "of course"–which is another overused no-no.

Why do people say "actually" so much? Some use it to sound insightful and hip, others resort to it to give them time to think, while the rest do it because–everybody else is doing it!

When is the use of "actually" merited? Generally, when it's associated with the revelation of a fact that isn't known, or to presage a correction, as in: "The tattoo is more than just an ornamental decoration on the native's skin, it actually identifies which tribe he belongs to," and "No, the average age of brides today is actually 22 years, not 19."

Why do people say 'actually' so much? Some use it to sound insightful, others to give them time to think

In most instances, the use of "actually" by people talking on TV is unnecessary, as in: "What do you do for a living?" "Actually, I'm a model."

Interestingly and confoundingly, "actually" has been used so much that it's acquired a life of its own, as a one-word retort or affirmation as in: "I think he's so *yabang.*" *"Actually!"*

The latest wrinkle is the intentional overuse of "actually" in a relatively new commercial. The use is cutely satirical of people's thoughtless and *pa-kwela* overuse of the word.

"Of course" is also used to excess these days. Its use is excessive when the fact being "of course" isn't all that obvious, which is what "of course" is supposed to signify. Ditto for the overuse of "you know," which speakers resort to so they sound admirably knowledgeable.

In all three instances–for "actually," "of course" and "you know"–their use is generally unnecessary and speakers would sound more natural and less *porma* if they avoided them unless absolutely needed.

When show biz people are speaking on the tube, the problem gets compounded because other clichés enter the picture.

For instance, entertainers sometimes get into arguments with each other, but generally refuse to admit that they're bickering or having a slam-bang fight. The most they'll admit to is, "It's just a misunderstanding."

This is irritating because it glosses over legitimate issues and nothing is really clarified or settled. As a result, pretty much the same show biz people periodically get into fights, each one of which is eventually pooh-poohed away with another declaration of–you guessed it–"It's just a misunderstanding."

Show biz stars and starlets who fall in love also tick viewers off when they keep denying their romantic involvement and insist, "Friends *lang kami." This, despite being seen locked in hot clinches all over town. Then, when they finally break up, as they usually do, they piously ask, "How can we admit that we broke up when we never admitted that we were more than friends in the first place?" Oh, puh-leaze.*

Stars and starlets are also fond of invariably plugging their new films with *"Panoorin ninyo ang bagong pelikula ko, maganda siya, maraming bago, kapupulutan ninyo ng* moral lesson." They say this so automatically that it's practically a show biz mantra that's used regardless of the actual quality of the film being plugged.

Of course, when you do make the mistake of actually seeing the movie, it's a total waste of you time–you know?!

'CSI' on Studio 23

"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" can now be seen on Studio 23 every Wednesday at 8 p.m., followed by "The X-Files" at 9 p.m.

"CSI" has become popular with viewers because it shows the great lengths investigators go to in finding clues with high-tech tools and processes. Other pluses include eventful scripts and intense performances.

William Petersen stars as Gil Grisson, the head of the Las Vegas Crime Scene Investigation Unit, an elite forensics force that solves crimes by analyzing evidence that most other investigators would never even think exists. Other lead players include **Marg Helgenberger, George Eads, Gary Dourdan,** and **Jorja Fox.**

Breeding dogs and selling real estate

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

NOT everyone will instantly remember his name. But his face, and that cherubic smile, certainly looks familiar. It is the same smile that helped bring **William Thio** a certain amount of fame. It is the same smile, after all, that first attracted public attention when William appeared in a Close-Up TV commercial.

William did the Close-Up TV ad in 1996 when he was in Manila on a break from school at Menlo College in Atherton, California, where he majored in mass communications and psychology. In June that same year, William was launched as a member of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 5, with **Baron Geisler, John Lloyd Cruz** and others.

In his few months in show biz, William did three movies—**Don Escudero**'s "Halik" with **Ruffa Gutierrez** and **Christopher de Leon, Mac Alejandre**'s "Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot" with **Donna Cruz** and **Jason Everly**, and **Jose Javier Reyes**' "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" with **Ariel Rivera** and **Gelli de Belen.**

"It was always my dream to make my first million at a certain age, but I made it only in 2000, after I got the Vaseline commercial," William shares. "They put my face on every bottle."

Prior to Close-Up, William had made a number of TV ads starting when he was in his teens. His first TV commercial was for Great Taste Coffee in 1991, with **Rustom Padilla** and **Chin-Chin Gutierrez.** He was also in ads for Sprite, Jack n' Jill Chippy, Sustagen Premium, Cali Shandy, Kodak, Wrigley's Double Mint and Nissin Eggnog.

Despite his brief show biz stay, William had his share of intrigues. Like any other promising newcomer, he had to battle with the gender issue.

HIS FIRST million came in 2000, says Thio

"But I just took it in stride," William says. "I know myself better than those people who wanted to destroy me ever did."

After only a few months in show biz, William had to return to California to finish his studies. He left Manila in December 1997. Two years later, he obtained his diploma.

"I lived alone in the US and I missed show biz," William confesses. "I had a regimented life. It was very predictable every day because you knew what would happen."

He worked for his school's administration and took charge of foreign students. He also had a part-time job as a bartender at The Huddle in Fremont, California.

After his younger brother moved to New York, William returned to Manila in May last year to help his grandmother in the family's real-estate business. As the first grandson in the family, William is very close to his *lola.*

Born in Manila, William left with his dad and younger brother for Indonesia in 1985 after his parents separated. He speaks fluent English, Bahasa and Filipino.

He returned to Manila albeit only briefly, only to be uprooted again when he moved to Vancouver and then to the US again.

In 1992, he returned to Manila again and finally finished high school at Brent in Pasig, where Ruffa was a classmate.

"I don't have too many friends here, but Ruffa is one of them," William says.

William, 28, has now returned to TV and now appears on the weekly ABC 5 reality TV show, "Single," where he is the main talent four times a week.

"It's fun," William attests. "We don't follow a script. We are now on our third season."

"Single" airs on Wednesdays, 9 to 10 p.m. It is produced by **Chris Tan** and **Tonton Gatmaitan,** and directed by **B Canapi** and **Quiel Sandico.**

Occasionally, William also pinch-hits for host Rosa Rosal on the public service program, "Damayan" on NBN 4, without any talent fee. He does this for public service and has even volunteered as a spokesperson for the Red Cross.

Rosal is the sister of William's grandmother.

AUBREY MILES in her usual
right)

William is also in the cast
mates," a film about the
lifestyle. Noted hairstylist
son, a friend of the movie's
ducers-directors **Ham**
Mike Cassey, encouraged
audition for a role in "Interr

Written by **Dino Erece,**
was created by the British
Tojaro Productions and was
tirely in the Philippines.
cion and **Raymond Bagatsi**
all-Filipino cast, which also
jo Alejar, Mike Lloren, Jay

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SMART Simply Amazing!

William returns, still smiling

sexy self, and in Celso Ad. Castillo's "Sanib" (upper

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ng lead the
ncludes Jo-
Español, Si-

mon Ibarra, Miggy Moreno, Jo Mari Jose and Rommel Go.

"My character is very challenging because mid-way into the movie, I become bisexual," William offers.

He claims he learned a lot from costar Raymond Bagatsing, whom he considers a "very intense and very good actor."

A health buff who always finds time for the gym, William also breeds and raises prize-winning canines like Pomeranians, which he fields in dog competitions.

Shoo-in acting bets

YOU CAN rarely go wrong with a horror flick. And Regal Entertainment has proven this again with the box-office success of **Celso Ad Castillo**'s "Sanib," the second top-grossing entry in the ongoing Manila Film Festival, next to Viva Films' "Pangarap Ko ang Ibigin Ka."

"Sanib" stars **Aubrey Miles** in her very first non-sexy role. Aubrey is also a strong contender for the festival's best actress plum, against another sexy star, **Ara Mina** who stars in **Joel Lamangan**'s "Huling Birhen sa Lupa."

Raymond Bagatsing is also said to be a shoo-in bet for best actor.

'Retro Revolution'

HERE'S a text message from **Vivian Sarabia**, inviting everyone to the "Amazing Retro Revolution," June 28, Saturday, "from 6:30 to *pagod* to *sawa*."

Vivian said: "It's a great dance party concert exploding at NBC Tent School Gym. Experience your junior-senior promo once again, with four retro combos alternating—RJ and Friends, Flintstones and The Gang, Moonstrucks, Rockin' Revival—and a celebrity band. Jail booths and college fairs, games, plus the First Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame Awards. Best of all, fun memories and meeting once again our high school and college *barkada*.

"The price of a ticket for getting our youth back is P1,500 and comes with a CD of the bands."

MISALUCHA will sing tomorrow to raise funds for the beneficiaries of the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation

Lani Misalucha helps take care of other people's kids

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER Lani Misalucha admits she spends more time in singing engagements than with her two daughters.

She remembers the guilt she felt when she was not able to buy anything for her daughters, Louvren and Laura, during her US tour last April because her schedule had been so hectic.

"When I told them about it, my youngest daughter said, 'It's okay mama, at least you're home now'," Lani told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Still, even when she hardly has time to spend with her own daughters, she can find time to help the less privileged, especially children. For the past few years, she has been involved in various fund raisers, mostly for the deaf and mute.

On Thursday, June 19, at 8:30 p.m., Lani will perform in a show with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) at the Music Museum to raise funds for the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation (MDF).

The MDF is the largest surgical charitable institution in the Philippines, performing roughly 3,000 operations per year to correct medical conditions such as cataracts, crossed eyes, cleft lip/palates, clubfoot, post-polio and burns.

Lani said the concert, titled "Change-A-Life with Lani Misalucha," is special to her in that that 100 percent of the ticket sales and funds from corporate sponsors will be used to finance the operation of MDF patients.

"This is my first project with the MDF," Lani shares. "I spent a little time with MDF patients in Cubao, and I've seen how the foundation has changed their lives. Miracles can happen for just a cheap price."

Lani said she discovered the MDF through a friend from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, where she's an active member. Last month, she and her husband Noli visited the MDF office in Cubao, Quezon City, and she sang for MDF children.

Lani volunteered her services for free when she found out that MDF needed a fund raiser for its patients. Like Lani, musical director Gerard Salonga and several members of the MPO will be performing in the Music Museum show with no talent fee.

"In exchange for their kindness, I've also agreed to perform in their show, also at the Music Museum, on June 21," Lani explained.

"Change-A-Life with Lani Misalucha" production managers Melu Abrilla and Maro Garcia and light designer Tonet Abrilla also worked for free. The Music Museum is also al-

LANI/ A30

Hume Cronyn, 91

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut—Stage and screen actor Hume Cronyn, who charmed audiences with his portrayals of irascible old men and frequently paired up with his wife, Jessica Tandy, has died of cancer. He was 91.

Cronyn died of prostate cancer Sunday at his home in Fairfield, Connecticut. He and Tandy were married for nearly 52 years at the time of her death from ovarian cancer in September 1994.

Cronyn, known to modern audiences for his roles in the 1980s "Cocoon" movies, made his theater debut in 1931 as a paperboy in "Up Pops the Devil." He made his film debut in 1943 as the detective story addict Herbie Hawkins in Alfred Hitchcock's "Shadow of a Doubt."

He was also in "Phantom of the Opera" (1943); "The Postman Always Rings Twice" (1946); "Cleopatra" (1963); "There Was a Crooked Man" (1970); and "The World According to Garp" (1982). He was nominated for an Academy Award as best supporting actor for "The Seventh Cross" in 1944. *AP*

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Lani Misalucha helps take care of other people's kids

From page A29

lowing the use of the venue without its usual charges.

"Expect some pop and Broadway tunes, and some of my songs, too," Lani said of her repertoire.

MDF country director Saydi Shumway said they in the foundation hope that "Change a Life" will become an annual fund raiser. She said the MDF plans to ask another performer to help them out next year.

"We need all the help we can get to make people know about this project," Shumway said.

In her recent US tour, Lani performed before full-house crowds in San Diego and Los Angeles in California and in Reno, Nevada.

Aside from co-hosting GMA-7's Sunday noontime variety show "SOP," she is also promoting her new album from Viva Music, "Loving You."

DID YOU KNOW...

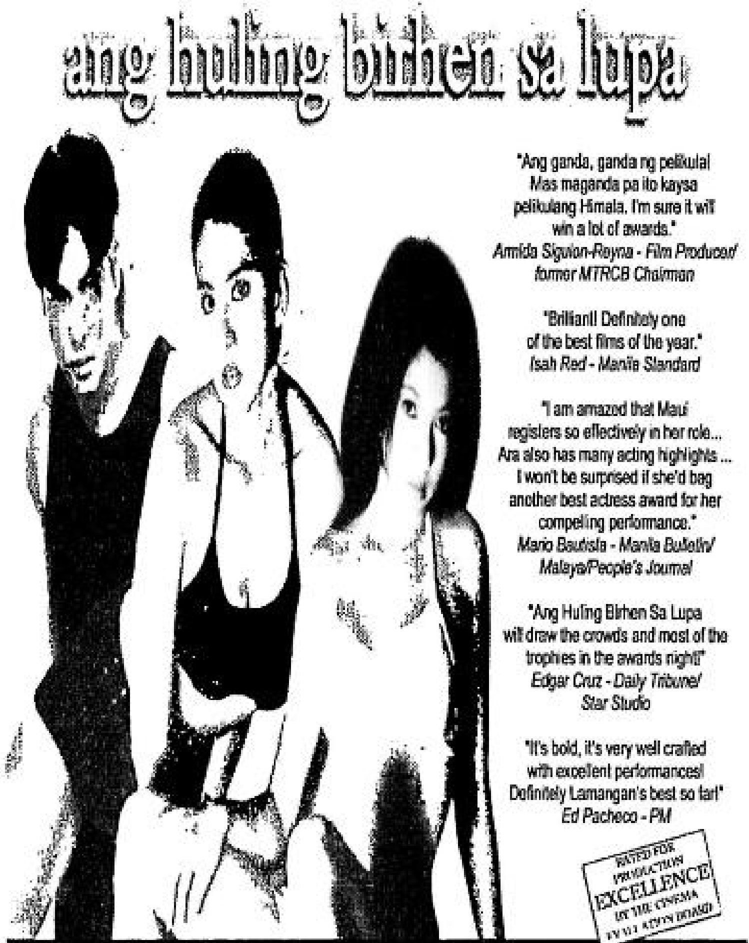
Grand slam best supporting actor winner (for **Chito Roño**'s "Dekada '70") **Piolo Pascual** has German blood, being the son of a German father. Piolo's real last name is Herzig. When he entered show biz, he started using Pascual, which is the last name of his stepfather. **Marvin Jay Cuyugan** is the real name of fellow young star **Marvin Agustin**, who is Piolo's costar in "Dekada '70." Agustin was the screen name that ABS-CBN gave him when Marvin joined show biz seven years ago. And who is **Melanie Calumpad**? That is the real name of the former singing contest champion now known as **Kyla**.

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	SANIB
Ali 4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 5	ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
Ali 6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 7	OPERATION BALIKATAN
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 15 & 22	PBA GAMES
JUNE 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 13	UAAP GAMES
ELEPHANT WORLD	
ELEPHANT SHOW EVERY WEEKEND	
Fridays	Showtime: 5 PM
Saturdays	Showtime: 3 PM
Sundays	Showtime: 3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX DRIVE / JAIL BRIDE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALAB NG LAHI
B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SANIB
CINEMA-6	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA-7	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-15	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KITA
CINEMA 2	PUTIK
CINEMA 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 4	SANIB
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED

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Armida Siguion-Reyna - Film Producer/ former MTRCB Chairman

"Brilliant! Definitely one of the best films of the year."
Isah Red - Manila Standard

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Mario Bautista - Manila Bulletin/ Malaya/People's Journal

"Ang Huling Birhen Sa Lupa will draw the crowds and most of the trophies in the awards night!"
Edgar Cruz - Daily Tribune/ Star Studio

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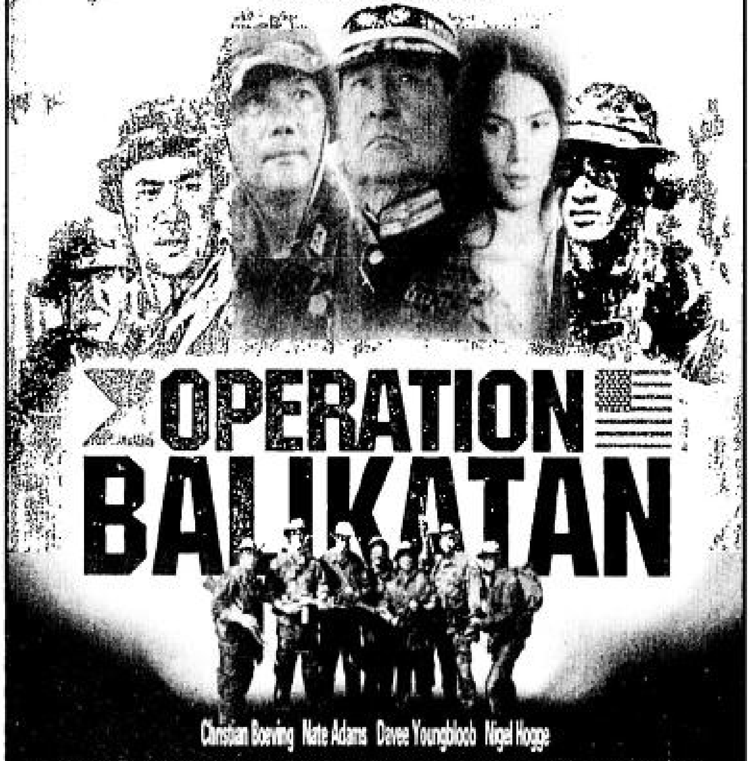
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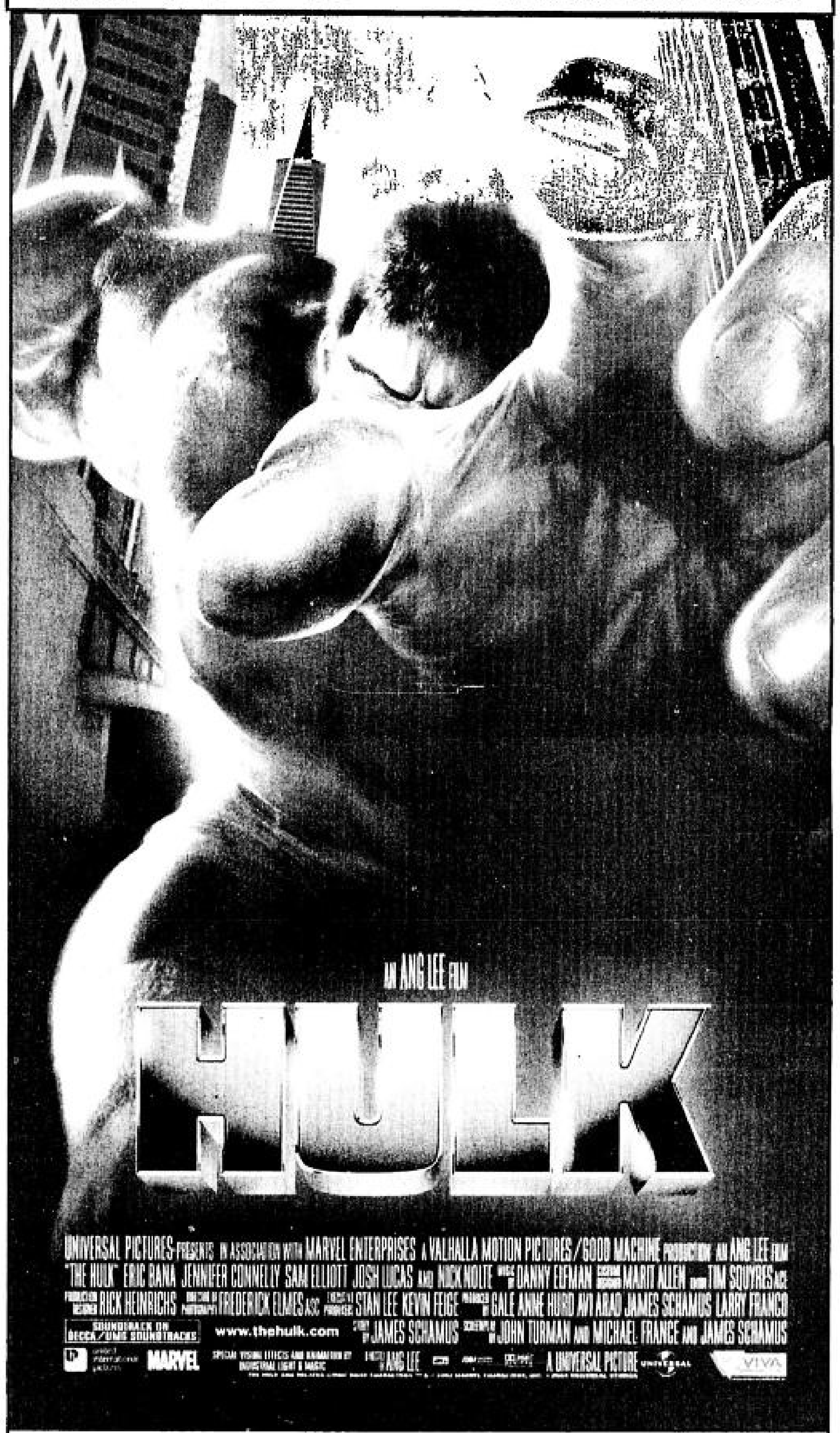
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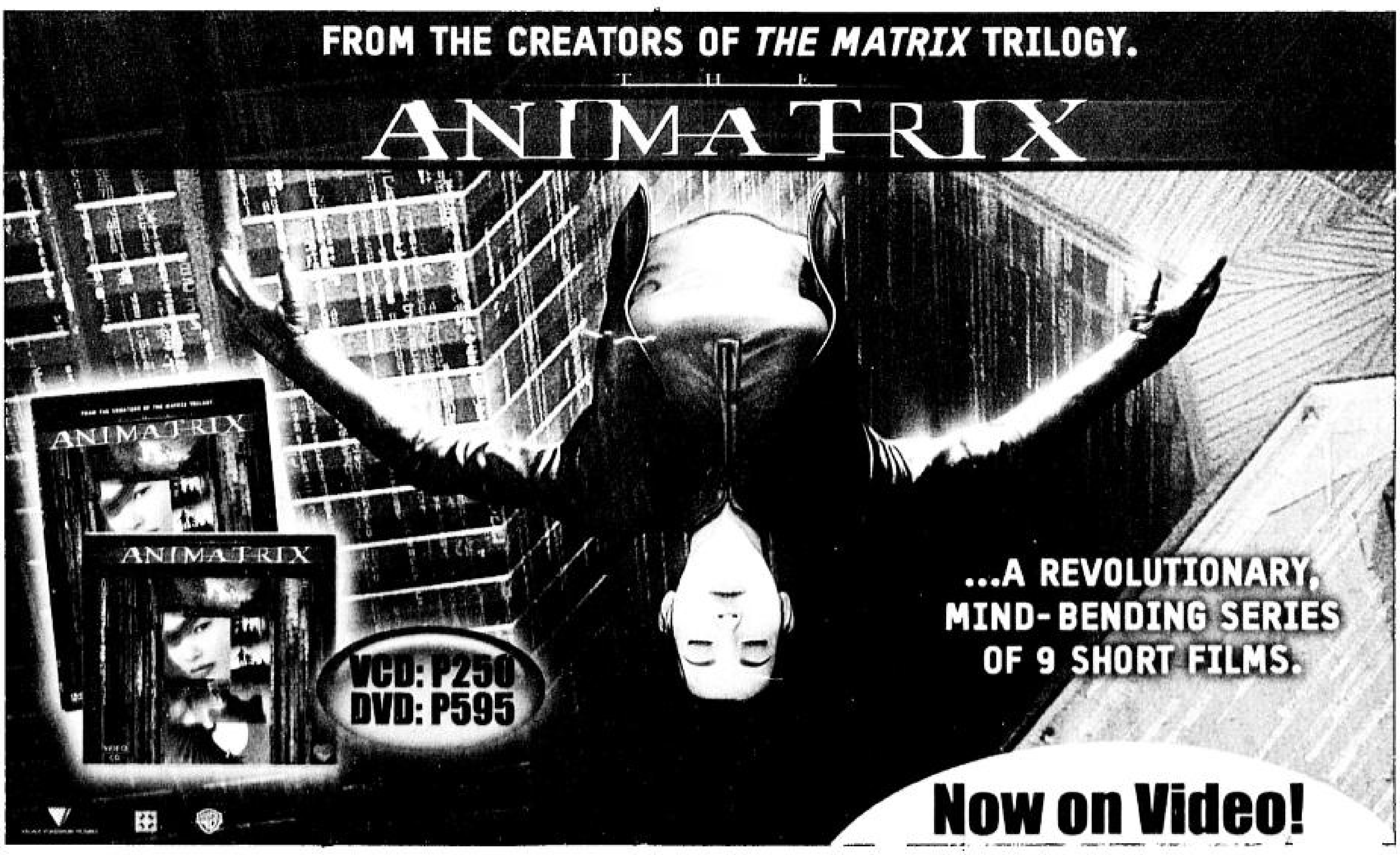
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Band regroups to fight . . .

From page A32

the band toward their first studio recording for Vicor in 1994. Bobby, who teaches at the Philippine Military Academy, went solo in 1993 following artistic differences with his brothers.

"We never really got a hit out of our albums, although we did achieve some form of popularity when we were billed alongside various rock artists in anthology albums," said Reuel. "No one really realized we were Igorots."

As composers, the brothers never approached songs like "Tell Me Through My Dreams" with any clear references to the Ibaloi struggle, he said. But after two decades of cult popularity, and about six years of struggling in Metro Manila, the Carantes brothers have discovered that the song lends more meaning to their recent activism.

"The song was my way of grappling with our ancestral heritage," said Reuel. "We were not publicly involved before in any of our family's ancestral land claims, although we each had assignments. Ours was to study the (anthropological and historical roots) of the Carantes family, and we didn't know what to do."

Their father, Solomon Carantes, died earlier and "like all Ibalois who grew up in Baguio, I wanted my father to tell me, in my dreams, what to do," Reuel said. Ibaloi lore directs troubled Ibalois to seek guidance from their ancestors through dreams.

Cult status

This internal crisis was resolved when Reuel listened to some Ibaloi elders chanting a small prayer during a ritual *cañao* (feast).

"I was inspired by the chant's harmonics, and I recorded it," Reuel said. "Then I translated the harmony into guitar chords and got this melody. I finally had a song. I later included the chant in the background when we recorded 'Tell Me Through My Dreams.'"

The song, as well as other original Bag-iw music, caught the attention of Vicor in 1993, resulting in their first pop single, a remake of Sino band's "Problema na Naman," and their first mainstream album "Bag-iw." The album's signature song, "Mahal Pa Rin Kita," got well-received airplay.

In 1996, Bag-iw recorded another album for PolyEast, which was carried by the signature single "Hanggang Kailan."

Reuel said the albums never went farther than minor cult status in a period when rock bands were starting to be revived.

Now in their 40s, Reuel and Adon admitted that their music no longer suited the late 1990s when hip-hop and alternative rock started to get more popular attention. They tried to assimilate but eventually decided to abandon Bag-iw.

'This is a reunion'

"The new songs just didn't fit our persona," Reuel said. He then formed and performed nightly with the rock band Flights of Fancy. Adon formed The Nation but he stopped performing after getting a marketing job for a family movie outfit, Wild Worlds.

Bobby eventually thought of a Bag-iw reunion after he spent time processing the family's ancestral land claims. He formed the Solomon M. Carantes Center of Living Traditions and Environment Foundation Inc. (SCCALTE) to develop a living Ibaloi village on Camp John Hay land that had been certified as their ancestral home. He helped set up four indigenous Ibaloi houses near the former Voice of America compound last week. But government agencies have ordered the foundation out of the property.

"I have written new songs that would capture our struggle and we can reunite and play these songs in many protest gatherings," Bobby said.

Bobby, Reuel and Adon recently sang their original songs together, after seven years, at the SCCALTE village for artists and sympathizers.

"This is a reunion," Adon kept telling the crowd.

Finally, he said, Bag-iw is again leading a new generation with Ibaloi music.

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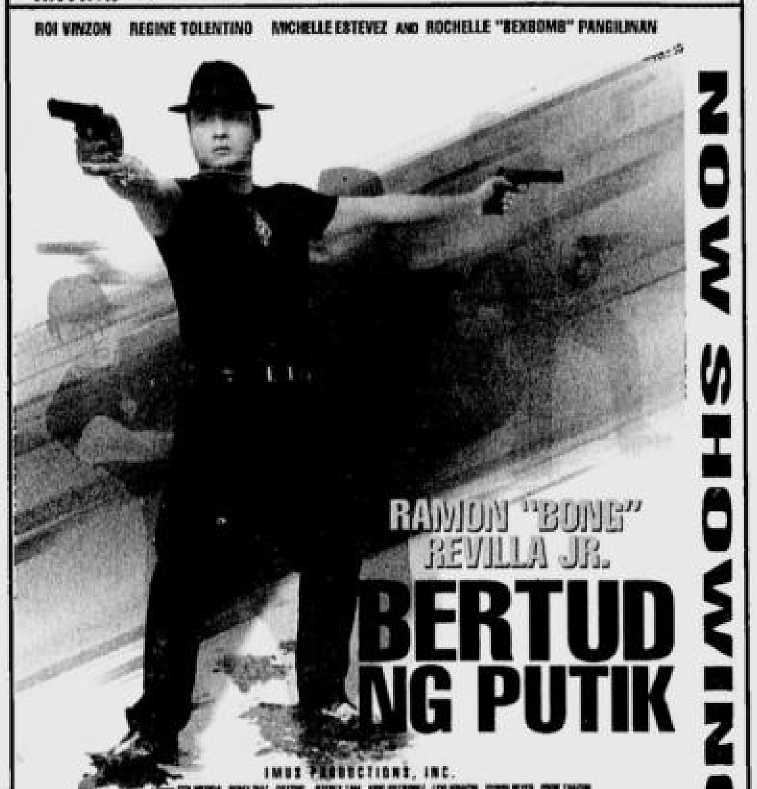

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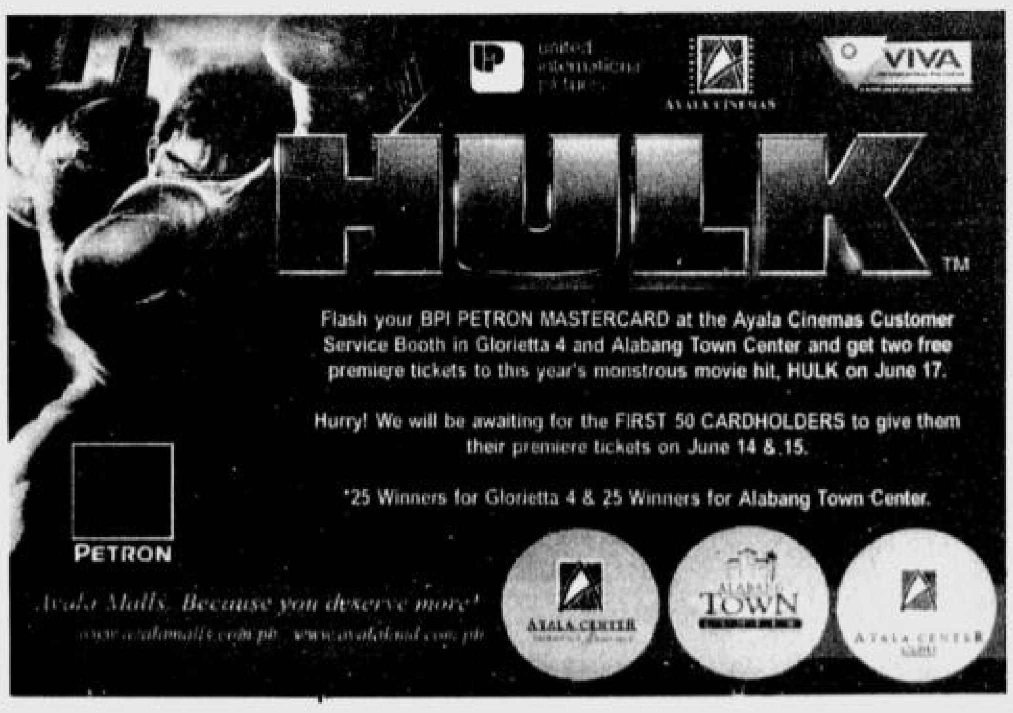

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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GMA 7 set to air 2 more chinovelas

ABS-CBN to air 'Meteor Garden' weekends

By Leah Salterio

GMA 7 is bent on winning the contest for the most popular chinovela, following the phenomenal success of ABS-CBN's "Meteor Garden."

GMA 7 has acquired the rights to two more Taiwanese drama serials after the June 9 premiere of its own chinovela, "My MVP Valentine," according to Butch Raquel, GMA 7 officer in charge for corporate communications.

"These are programs of quality and we are confident they will do well with our viewers," Raquel said.

The two new ones will also be dubbed in Filipino.

"My MVP Valentine" is GMA 7's answer to ABS-CBN's "Meteor Garden." Both air daily at 5:30 p.m.

"We are not after quantity but quality," said Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for corporate and legal affairs, when told of GMA 7's acquisition of two more Taiwanese dramas.

Now that classes have opened, ABS-CBN will start airing "Meteor Garden" on weekends at 11 a.m. starting Saturday, June 21, according to network officials.

Rewind

There is also a "Meteor Garden Rewind" both on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. for those who miss the weekday episodes.

Manalastas claimed there was a clamor from young and old viewers for "Meteor Garden" to air on weekends.

The ban of "Meteor Garden" in China does not appear to have an effect on the popularity of the series in the region.

It is not the first time that China has banned a Taiwanese program or celebrity. In 2000, Beijing banned A-Mei, one of Taiwan's pop stars, after she sang Taiwan's national anthem during the inauguration of China's president, according to the June issue of ABS-CBN's entertainment magazine, Star Studio, which carries trivia about "Meteor Garden" and a centerfold poster of F4, the lead stars of the series.

Star Studio also reported that Coca-Cola subsequently dropped a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign featuring A-Mei in China.

THE 5566, the stars of 'My MVP Valentine'

Anticipated

This early, the second season of "Meteor Garden" is already widely anticipated.

The boys of "Meteor Garden" will graduate from the Ying De Institute and Dao Ming Si and Shan Cai decide to go to Spain for a tour.

However, things get tangled up in their European trip which will cause the two lovers to get separated.

A five-set DVD version of "Meteor Garden" has been released by Warner Home Video Hong Kong and costs US $105.

The lyrics of the opening and closing themes of "Meteor Garden" can be obtained through http://www.hanadan.net.

The tunes can also be downloaded through MyGlobe for ringing tones.

On "Klasmeyts" tonight, Herbert Bautista, Bayani Agbayani, Paolo Contis and Keempee de Leon will spoof F4 and sing the hits of the popular boyband group.

ABS-CBN further hypes up "Meteor Garden" by holding a daily F4 sing-alike contest on the noontime show, "Masayang Tanghali, Bayan."

Band regroups to fight for rights

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—They became known as an "ethnic rock" band in the early '90s until they broke up. Now they're back again, singing—and fighting.

When local radio stations start playing their "Tell Me Through My Dreams," a 1994 rock ballad inspired by Ibaloi prayer chants, it is meant to arouse more activism than romance. The song will be revived in July by the 1990s pop rock band Bag-iw as part of an album that will be dedicated to the fight for Ibaloi ancestral land rights in Baguio City.

Ibaloi musicians, sculptors and painters have been lobbying for indigenous Ibaloi land rights in the city, after the government began implementing a provision in the 1997 Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (Ipra) that excludes Baguio from its coverage. Ipra grants indigenous peoples titles to their ancestral domain.

THE CARANTES brothers make music again VINCENT CABREZA

Bag-iw was a novelty ethnic rock act that was promoted by Vicor Records and PolyEast Philippines until the band broke up in 1999. The name Bag-iw was taken from the commonly accepted indigenous name for Baguio.

Bag-iw was the first Ibaloi act to be produced by, and to receive promotional support from, mainstream recording firms. The band was formed by brothers Bobby, Reuel and Adon Carantes in 1977 at the height of the so-called "Baguio Sound" that was later popularized in Metro Manila by the likes of Tito Mina in the early 1980s.

The brothers started out with solo careers as folk singers. But only Reuel and Adon sustained

BAND/ A31

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FRIDA R18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	AGENT CODY BANKS PG13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	ANG TANGING INA GP 12:20,2:40,5:10, 7:35,10:00
DARKNESS FALLS - PG13 12:10,2:05,4:00,5:55 ANG TANGING INA - GP 8:15	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 1:10

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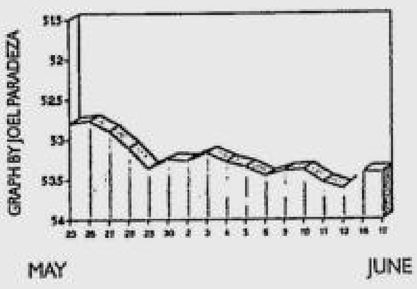

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per ounce Hong Kong, June 17, 2003

June 17, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.845451	1.000000	53.474000
Japan	Yen	0.007186	0.008500	0.454500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.417653	1.676800	89.665200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108411	0.128228	6.856900
Switzerland	Franc	0.647806	0.766225	40.973100
Canada	Dollar	0.629009	0.743992	39.784200
Singapore	Dollar	0.489124	0.578536	30.936600
Australia	Dollar	0.563559	0.666578	35.644600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.242636	2.652590	141.844600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225454	0.266667	14.259800
Brunei	Dollar	0.487714	0.576868	30.847400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020382	0.024108	1.289200
UAE	Dirham	0.230193	0.272272	14.559500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.182800	63.249000
Argentina	Peso	0.300072	0.354925	18.979300
Brazil	Real	0.297590	0.351989	18.822300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134723	0.159350	8.521100
India	Rupee	0.018159	0.021478	1.148500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222517	0.263193	14.074000
Mexico	New Peso	0.080673	0.095420	5.102500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.491885	0.581801	31.111200
Norway	Kroner	0.121525	0.143740	7.686400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014647	0.017325	0.926400
South Africa	Rand	0.108878	0.128781	6.886400
Korea	Won	0.000710	0.000840	0.044900
Sweden	Kroner	0.110189	0.130332	6.969400
Syria	Pound	0.020130	0.023810	1.273200
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024506	0.028986	1.550000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000530	0.000627	0.033500

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE STOCK market yesterday soared to its highest level in more than a year, pulled up mainly by strength in US and regional markets and an improving local economic climate.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index jumped 4.89 percent or 58.98 points to close at 1,264.51—its highest closing level since June 14, 2002, when it ended at 1,265.75.

The increase was the Phisix's second biggest single-day jump since former President Joseph Estrada was replaced by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the popular Edsa II uprising.

Foreign buying yesterday reached a net of P307 million and were concentrated mostly on blue-chip stocks, particularly Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Equitable PCI Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc. and Ayala Corp.

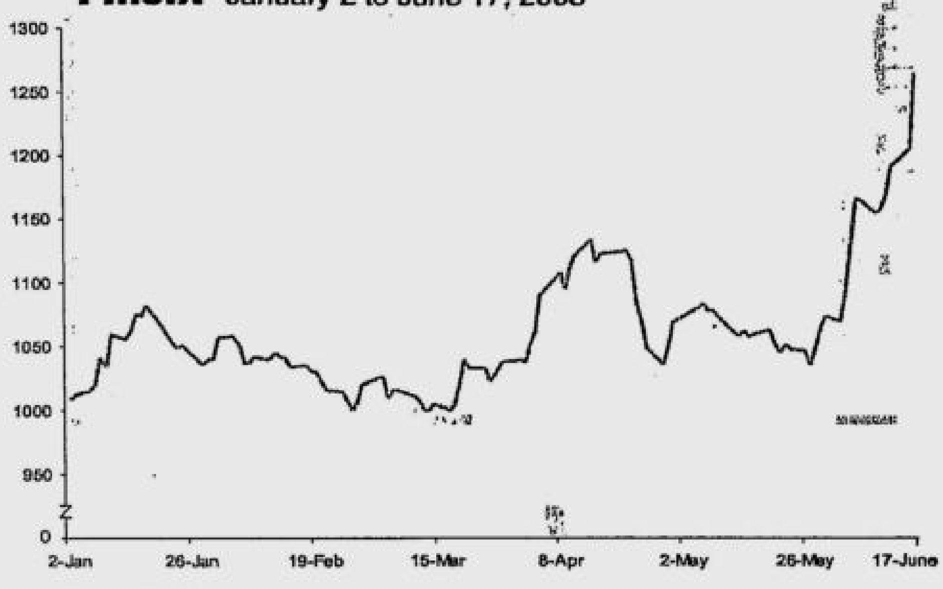
Heartened by the Philippines' robust 4.5 percent growth in gross domestic product in the first quarter and the easing of interest rates, many foreign brokerage houses have been recommending blue-chip telecommunications, property, banking and consumer issues to their clients.

Analysts said that given that the Phisix has breached 1,200 points, it should soon test the 1,300 level.

"The market should be bullish until at least the end of the month," said Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities.

BPITrade, the online securities trading platform of BPI Securities, said that market momentum remained positive though a pullback might be in the offing, but this should provide opportunities for bargain hunting

PHISIX January 2 to June 17, 2003



Source: Technistock

Barring any major negative development, investors would likely hold on to positions until second-quarter earnings are released in July to August, BPITrade said.

Roxas said that it might be a good time for investors to look at second-liners and give telecommunication stocks a rest.

He said that for banks, it might be time to check out Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Union Bank of the Philippines and Equitable PCI Bank, as well as Empire East, Megaworld Corp. and Filinvest Land for property stocks.

"Many of the blue-chip stocks are close to year-highs, maybe it's time for second liners to start catching up," Roxas pointed out.

"This is a continuation of what we saw in the past few days, perked up by Wall Street's

STOCKS/ B2

Asian equity marts surge

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks powered to new multi-month highs yesterday after a strong US manufacturing report rekindled hopes of an economic rebound and drove Wall Street's blue chips to their best levels in almost a year.

Japanese and South Korean shares rose more than 2 percent, matching gains in US indices, to reach their highest peaks since December and January, respectively.

The broad MSCI Asia Pacific Free Index ex-Japan was up 1.8 percent, its highest level in

ASIAN/ B2

Meralco shells out P770M for refund

MANILA Electric Co. yesterday said it had shelled out P770 million or 37 percent of the budget for Phase 1 of its P30-billion refund to customers as of June 14.

In a statement, Meralco's refund management task force head Leonardo Mabale said the amount disbursed included those applied to unpaid bills, June bills and future bills as well as cash refund.

Mabale said more than half of chose to have their money credited to future bills, which accounted for a total of P424 million.

Meralco vice president Elpi Cuna said those who availed themselves of the refund numbered about 430,000.

Cuna said the utility expected to complete Phase 1 "at the soonest possible time to satisfy (our) small consumers."

Phase 1 covers customers using up to 100 kilowatt-hours based on their April billing. This would cost Meralco up to P2.2 billion.

On Monday, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the company was ready to implement Phase 2 of the refund as early as August.

Phase 2 would cover customers using between 101 and 300 kWh who number about 1.7 million. This would cost the company P4.5 billion.

Francisco said Meralco would ask its creditors this week to allow a rescheduling of payments for P6-billion in short-term loans due in July.

The Meralco president added that the company's ability to shell out refund money depended on whether or not creditors would allow a rescheduling of payments. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Voluntary retirement plan for BIR workers set

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has submitted to Congress a two-phase program to address the possible displacement of the 12,000 workforce of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) upon the creation of the National Authority for Revenue Administration (Nara).

Based on Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho's explanation, however, not every one in the BIR would be assured of being retained upon the creation of the Nara.

He admitted that the rationalization program could lead to a "significant reduction" in the number of staff that could be retained.

However, the Finance chief said it would not be good to presume that everyone in the BIR, despite perceptions of being a graft-ridden agency, deserved to be weeded out.

The first phase under the DOF's proposal, Camacho said, would be to offer a voluntary retirement package to all employees. He said those who would accept this package would receive a generous separation package.

Those who would not accept the separation offer, Camacho said, would have to undergo a rigid performance evaluation over the next 12 to 18 months.

"They will have to go through an evaluation process which will be fair," he said.

Those who would not pass the performance evaluation would still get a separation package, he noted, but not as generous as that given under the first phase.

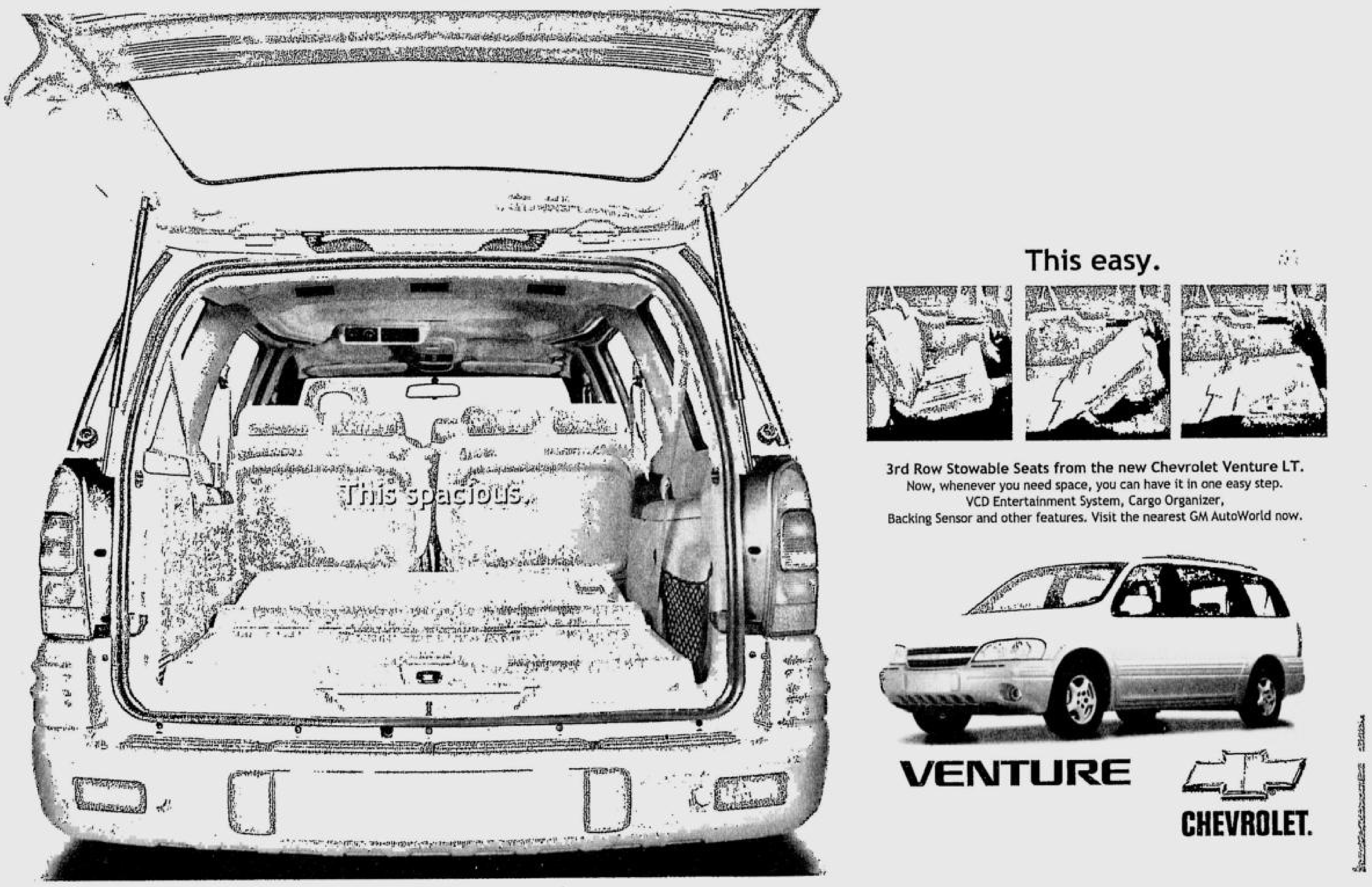
President Macapagal-Arroyo has already certified as urgent House Bill No. 5465, or the NARA bill, that seeks to create an independent and transparent tax collection agency.

"I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of HB 5465 to address the public emergency consisting of the urgent plan to rein in the country's fiscal deficit which has risen precipitously," President Macapagal said in her memorandum to House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The government's budget deficit hit an all-time high of P232 billion last year, surpassing the original ceiling of P130 billion by 64 percent. The record fiscal deficit was also 45-percent higher than the previous year's P147-billion budget gap.

International credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings earlier downgraded their outlook on the Philippines to negative from stable mainly due to its poor fiscal management as seen in the government's failure to keep the budget deficit

VOLUNTARY/ B3



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Extension of RP post-program monitoring under IMF sought

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONCERNS over the government's fragile fiscal position have prompted the International Monetary Fund to push for an extension of its supervisory program on the Philippines.

The post-program monitoring arrangement between the IMF and the Philippines was supposed to expire by the end of the year but the ballooning budget deficit might be considered ground for extending the program, government sources said.

This despite earlier pronouncements by local authorities that the government would terminate the arrangement before the end of the year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura used to be adamant about exiting the IMF program, but he recently changed his stance saying that there might be merit in staying under the PPM following the series of sovereign credit rating downgrades by foreign rating agencies.

"The PPM serves as a double check or seal of good housekeeping—that somebody, an external agency, is reviewing our program," Buenaventura told reporters yesterday.

"Of course, the IMF review will obviously be a lot more thorough than the rating agencies because it has greater access to our numbers. Being a member of the IMF, we have to subscribe to transparency and full disclosure, something which we cannot do with the ratings agencies," he explained.

Buenaventura said there was still no decision. He, however, suggested that the Philippines might be better off shelving its exit plans.

"This might be important at this time given the downgrades by the rating agencies but again, we go forward and as we start showing a good track record then eventually, we will no longer need the PPM," he said.

Last week, UK-based Fitch Ratings warned of the material deterioration of the country's sovereign credit worthiness, citing the sharp rise in the national government debt/revenue ratio at 500 percent, which means that the country spends about five times more than it earns, the worst among countries rated by Fitch.

Fitch scaled down the country's sovereign long-term foreign currency rating by one notch to "BB" from "BB+", following a similar downgrade by Standard & Poor's.

Pasig court appoints CIPI assignee

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PASIG Regional Trial Court has appointed an assignee to facilitate the liquidation of failed investment house Corporate Investments Philippines Inc.

According to a report of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Pasig RTC has appointed Antonio Marty as CIPI assignee.

As early as two months ago, Marty has already been conducting several meetings with some of the major creditors of CIPI to facilitate the preparation of a mandatory liquidation plan for submission to the court.

Marty was also reportedly conferring with the current management of CIPI for the full information of all accounts and the smooth turnover of all corporate documents.

Three years ago, CIPI ran to the SEC seeking the suspension of debt payments. It also sought the holding of rehabilitation proceedings to stop creditors from pursuing claims worth more than P867 million.

The SEC later turned over the case to the Pasig RTC, and the investment house subsequently filed a petition for voluntary insolvency.

Shareholders of CIPI include San Miguel Retirement Fund with a 30-percent stake; the Coca-Cola Retirement Fund, 30 percent; the Archdiocese of Cebu, 20 percent and former CIPI president Aton Atilano with 20 percent.

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Asian equity marts surge

From page B1

11 months.

The bull market in the US is lifting sentiment," said Hwang Chang-joong, an analyst at LG Investment & Securities in South Korea.

Japan's Nikkei stock average closed above 9,000 for the first time since December, jumping 2.2 percent to 9,033.

"With the US having been as strong as it was, we've been able to push above the 9,000 line," said Hajime Yagi, general manager at Meiji Dresdner Asset Management. "Whether we're going to be able to maintain that is still an open question—how far along this rally can continue is going to pretty much depend on Wall Street."

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index climbed 1.5 percent to a six-month high of 10,006.36.

Singapore's Straits Times index was up 1.9 percent at its highest since August as chip maker Chartered Semiconductor rose 4.3 percent.

"The gains are due to a combination of liquidity and the news overnight that there are some signs of recovery in the U.S. That's important for Singapore, which is export-oriented," said Timothy Wong, director of research at brokerage DBS Vickers Securities.

South Korean shares jumped 2.6 percent. Samsung Electronics, the world's largest memory chip maker, advanced 4.7 percent. Shares rose 1.7 percent in Taiwan to a four-month high and 0.7 percent to nine-month peaks in Australia.

On Monday, US stocks jumped after the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said its Empire State Manufacturing Survey soared to its highest level in its two-year history. The report, which measures factory activity in New York state, gave a glimmer of hope for the stagnant US manufacturing sector.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2.2 percent to 9,318.96, its highest close since July 5. The Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 2.5 percent, to 1,666.58, its best finish since May 2002. *Reuters*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 17, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	30,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.5	17.25	16.25	17.25	793,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	51.5	49	51	1,035,400
China Banking Corp.	710	710	710	710	30
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35.5	35	35.5	401,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30.5	29.5	30	1,829,600
Philippine National Bank	24.75	25.5	24.75	24.75	162,500
Security Bank Corp.	12.25	12.75	12	12	244,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	19.25	20.5	19.25	20	121,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	145,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1530	1535	1530	1535	1,920
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1110	1110	1110	1110	990
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.25	20	17.25	20	141,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.77	0.78	11,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	625	660	625	655	314,700
Ipeople Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.044	15,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	21,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	60,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	8,370,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	530	545	530	545	315,410
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.48	0.43	0.48	1,340,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.012	0.013	175,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.7	980,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.5	13.25	12.5	13	4,284,300
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.98	1.86	1.96	21,692,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.62	1.66	1.62	1.66	890,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.95	4,765,000
Keppel Phils Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	80,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.48	1,180,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	34,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	17	16.25	17	1,024,900
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	30,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.3	0.32	400,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	176,400
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63.5	62.5	63	476,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.65	931,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.2	15,850,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.42	3,806,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	1,800,000
APC Group Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.57	0.49	0.52	45,840,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.7	170,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	840,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	3,050,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	115,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	9.7	10.25	9.7	10.25	1,669,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.115	0.1	0.115	4,000,000
Ionics Inc.	0.85	0.9	0.85	0.88	1,950,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.76	1.56	1.76	1,838,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.77	0.74	0.77	6,660,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.215	0.23	0.215	0.22	14,840,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.42	0.37	0.4	20,890,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	700,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	60,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	34,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	13,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.68	1.86	1.68	1.86	152,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	4,880,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	9,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.5	0.53	11,100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	500,000
Manila Jockey Club	7	8	7	8	141,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.39	0.4	1,720,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.75	20.25	17.75	20.25	688,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	10,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6.6	5.9	6.4	14,481,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	190,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.185	3,080,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.15	5,590,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.205	10,010,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	1.04	0.99	1.04	37,080,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.09	0.115	0.09	0.115	6,900,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.185	0.17	0.185	1,950,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	95,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	6.1	5.7	6.1	18,168,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.0038	0.004	91,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	280,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	40,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	26,000,000

DISCLOSURES

JG Summit Holdings Inc. said that it had guaranteed the 5-year, $300-million 8.25-percent notes offered by its offshore subsidiary, JGSH Philippines Ltd.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 3 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom, 4/F of Holiday Inn Manila Galleria, Pasig City.

* * *

VANTAGE Corp. said the Securities and Exchange Commission had approved its merger with Vantage Securities Corp.

* * *

RFM Corp. purchased 50,000 of its own shares at P0.72 per share.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. announced the appointment of Wilfrido Tecson, Artemio Disini and John Fairfield as members of the audit committee. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

June 17, 2003-MART1—Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 17-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 16-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	6.3545	6.3096
3 Months	6.4886	6.3211
6 Months	7.3308	7.3731
1 Year	7.4942	7.5346
2 Years	8.4827	8.4827
3 Years	9.5096	9.5442
4 Years	10.1625	10.1135
5 Years	10.4865	10.4904
7 Years	11.3423	11.3365
10 Years	11.5808	11.6404
20 Years	12.1058	12.2154
25 Years	12.5385	12.6519

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Stocks soar to highest . . .

From page B1

sharp gains," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

"This rise is being led by improving macroeconomic indicators such as increased tax collections and the outlook for the budget deficit, and also by gains in offshore equities markets," said Andrew Long of ATR-Kim Eng Securities.

"There's also an abundant supply of liquidity pushing the market higher," he added.

Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities said: "The strong economic indicators here and in the US and expectations of improved corporate earnings in the coming quarters have kept demand for equities high."

The stock market was also supported by positive sentiment about the local economy, including stronger-than-expected gross domestic product growth and an improving budget deficit.

Volume turnover fell to 710.28 million shares while value rose to P1.15 billion from 1.05 billion shares worth P734.86 million on Monday.

Globe Telecom gained P35 to P655 while Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. jumped P20 to P545.

SM Prime Holdings rose 50 centavos to P6.10. Ayala Land Inc. rose 60 centavos to P6.40 while its mother company, Ayala Corp., gained 35 centavos to P5.20. *With a report from AFP*

BayanTel sees debt-restructuring agreement this year

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER more than two years of negotiations, cash-strapped Bayan Telecommunications Inc. expects to sign before year's end a debt restructuring agreement with its creditors involving $477 million in debts.

"We'll likely sign this before the end of the year. It's really difficult to talk to creditors," BayanTel chief executive officer Eugenio Lopez III told reporters.

In an earlier interview, BayanTel chief finance officer Gary Olivar continued to express optimism about restructuring the company's debts within the year and possibly improving its cash position moving forward.

BayanTel continued to be in the red, still saddled by the millions of dollars in debts that it incurred in the mid-90s when it rolled out 700,000 landlines to acquire its licenses to operate an international gateway facility and a cellular service.

A telecommunications firm needs to roll out 300,000 landlines for an IGF license and 400,000 landlines for a cellular license.

Despite having a cellular service license for more than two years, however, BayanTel never had a chance to roll out its wireless services due to a court case earlier filed against it as well as lack of funds.

The Lopez-led firm hurdled just this year a case filed against it by Express Telecommunications Co. Inc., in which it had a 47-percent stake.

Extelcom sought the cancellation of BayanTel's provisional authority to operate a cellular service. After a couple of years in court, the Supreme Court sided with BayanTel early this year.

But even without the legal hurdle, BayanTel's cellular service was still unable to take off due to lack of resources.

Lopez said the company was in talks with potential partners that would enable it to finally roll out its wireless service.

"We're still looking for the right cellular partner. We're talking to potential partners right now, both technology and financial. BayanTel is not in a position to fund (a cellular service) right now," he said.

Should its cellular rollout take place, Lopez said BayanTel would not be competing head-on with incumbent operators Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

It would instead be using the code division multiple access (CDMA) platform that was predominant in countries like Korea and Japan, he said. The country uses the global system for mobile communications (GSM) platform.

Voluntary

From page B1

within the prescribed ceilings.

The President also said there was an urgent need to "reverse the declining tax effort attributable primarily to weak tax administration, corruption, and institutional constraints" in the BIR.

The BIR's tax effort slumped to nine-year low at 9.92 percent in 2002 from 10.68 percent the previous year. The tax effort refers to the total collection of the BIR against the country's domestic output or the gross domestic product (GDP).

The DOF has estimated annual revenue losses due to corruption at the BIR at P242 billion.

The bill hopes to plug these leakages by increasing transparency and enhancing professionalism and accountability among revenue officials.

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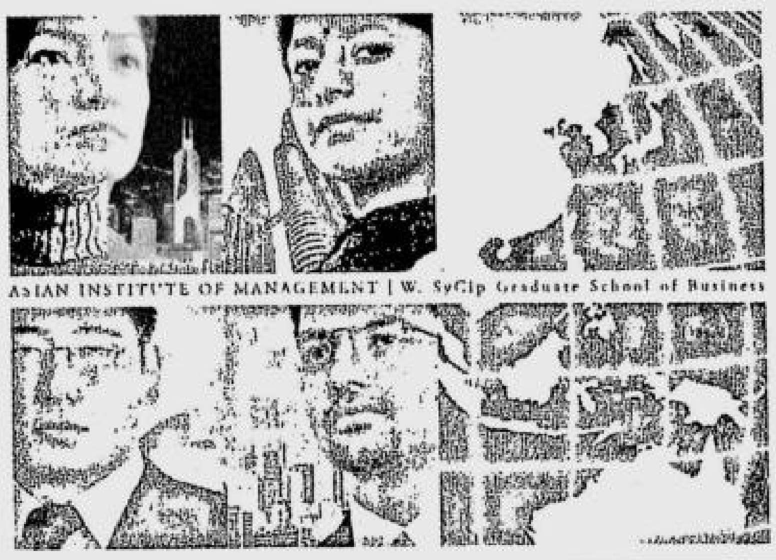

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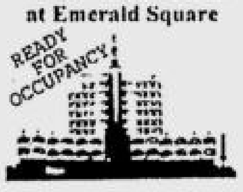

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NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late WILLIAM E. BEALS has been extrajudicially settled by sole heir Estrella B. Beals as per Doc.#304, Page #61, Book #1, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Francisco Malate Jr. of Paranaque City.
(PDI-June 18, 25 & July 2, 2003)

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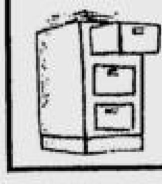

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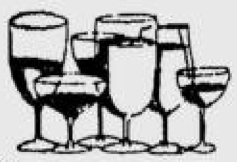

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

MCDONALD'S may be on the retreat in its US home base, but the fast-food giant is definitely on a roll within the local shores.

This afternoon, McDonald's will open its McCafé outlet at its popular Greenbelt/Paseo de Roxas branch, one of the four McCafés that the Oak Brook, Illinois-based parent will roll out in the Philippines this year. The new McCafés are on top of the 10 new McDonald's branches, each costing a minimum of P20 million to build, that are planned for the entire year.

The new McCafé shop will be the second store after the first one opened in Glorietta in 2001, the same year that Chicago unveiled the first and still so far lone McCafé in the United States.

First begun in Australia in 1993, the French-type cafés are McDonald's answer to the global juggernaut of Starbucks, the Seattle-based chain that has been a roaring success even in Third World countries like the Philippines.

Like its global sisters, the local McCafé will undercut Starbucks and the rest of the foreign competition by an average of P10 per cup of coffee. But unlike McDonald's, the coffee (and pastries) will be served in fine china, instead of Styrofoam and plastic ware.

So as not to compete with McDonald's, McCafé will serve espresso, called "Long Black" for P45, instead of brewed coffee, at P16 a cup, being offered by its bigger sister. The McCafé brew will use imported beans instead of the local roast that McDonald's serves.

McDonald's will also open future McCafés this year at the usual yuppie haunts such as Glorietta, Panay Avenue and Eastwood Libis. Strangely, the upcoming Fort outlet will not have a McCafé section, despite its markedly upscale neighborhood.

McDonald's planners apparently overlooked the sensitivities of its market, Pacific Plaza Towers/Essensa/Forbeswood señores and señoras who will not deign sit beside their drivers, yayas and bodyguards also enjoying a coffee break/merienda in the Fort "McDo."

Dutch treat

THE DUTCH flag carrier KLM has joined the regional airlines in cooking up their respective post-SARS promos.

KLM is now dangling double mileage for every paid trip taken out of Asia to Europe between now and Sept. 15.

KLM said the double mileage offer, which should be enough to win a free trip to Asia for existing WorldPerks members, could also be applied to win trips with KLM-partner Northwest Airlines.

For its part, Northwest has further reduced its Manila-US fares for the same season, apparently also in answer to the end-of-SARS promo from regional carriers poaching from the US-bound Philippine market.

Northwest slashed its roundtrip Manila-to-New York/Chicago/Washington DC, economy class fare to $753 from the already reduced $990. Manila to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle has likewise been knocked down to $753.

The fine print is that the Northwest tickets have to be booked and paid for no later than this Saturday, June 21. Flights out of Manila may be taken up to July 15; the return legs are valid within 90 days from departure.

Kissing bandit

HOW would you feel if a Viagra-popping septuagenarian steals a kiss from your teenage daughter right in front of the public?

Homicidal?

An aging journalist did just that, stole a kiss from a horrified female server at Italianni's in Glorietta 4, when the victim was taking his order.

The victim immediately reported the incident, but the manager, apparently fearing the power and influence ability of the aging journalist, advised the young girl just to charge it to experience. To prevent another ambush, the victim now purposely avoids serving the journalist whenever he and his chitchat group are in the joint.

Apparently the aging journalist is not content with his two steady dates also from Italianni's, one of who has been telling her colleagues that he has an open invitation for her to join him in one of his Hong Kong trips.

If these incidents offer a glimpse of the dark, hitherto hidden side of the aging journalist, wait 'til you hear the stories from Le Soufflé and from his very own newsroom.

Heard through the grapevine

IT seems that two-legged rats have joined their four-legged cousins that have been plaguing the Manila Hotel.

American guests of new general manager Robert Gerber lost a handbag while dining at the hotel's Cowrie Grill Sunday. The handbag contained air tickets, passports and a substantial amount of cash.

The hotel is understandably keeping the affair hush-hush.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Investments up 35% in Q1

LOCAL and foreign investments approved by the four government investment promotion agencies in the first quarter of the year rose by 35 percent to P12.2 billion from year-ago level, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas said.

Foreign direct investments, according to Roxas, increased by 26 percent to P6.3 billion from P5 billion last year while Filipino investors committed to pour in P5.9 billion, or 35 percent higher than the P4 billion infused in the same period last year.

Ninety-one percent of the investments were coursed through the Board of Investments (P7.5 billion) and Philippine Economic Zone Authority (P3.6 billion), both agencies are chaired by Roxas. The balance was shared by by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (P0.4 billion) and Clark Development Corp. (P0.6 billion).

ROXAS

The IT sector remained the biggest drawer of investments registering P2.6 billion worth of pledged projects in telecommunications (P1 billion), production of parts and accessories (P.9 billion) and IT-related services (P.7 billion). The total amount was 240 percent more that the P700 million registered in the same period last year last year. IT also accounted for 40 percent of the total FDI in the first quarter.

Securing investments for the country, however, needs certainty and predictability, Roxas said. "We have to compete with other Asian nations like China for investments in the manufacturing sector and in the case of IT-related ventures, with India."

According to Roxas, one way to sustain a steady flow of investments to the country is to focus the country's promotional efforts on specific industries.

Ninety-five percent of the approved investments were earmarked for the following industries: manufacturing (40 percent or P4.9 billion), gas and power (38 percent or P4.6 billion), services (17 percent or P2.1 billion). Other sectors or industries that drew investment commitments were real estate (P237 million), cargo storage (P124 million), trade (P75 million), agriculture (P64 million), transportation (P28 million) and communications (P0.4 million).

The United Kingdom emerged the biggest source of committed foreign investments amounting to P1.9 billion followed by Japan (P1.8 billion) and the United States (P1.6 billion).

Food highway to lure ₱13B in funds

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is expected to generate P13.7 billion in new investments over the next five years for the improvement of sea and land transport and the construction of post-harvest facilities in Mindanao.

This is to facilitate the efficient shipment of Mindanao's grains, fruits, fish and meat products to Metro Manila and other urban centers.

The President kicked off the roll-on, roll-off food highway during her week-long visit to Mindanao, which would account for the bulk or P5.61 billion of the projected investments in the Sustainable Logistics Development Program (SLDP) drafted by the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The DBP said P3.3 billion would be poured into port development; P2.1 billion for the acquisition of roll-on, roll off vessels, and P210 million to integrate the existing roads with the coastal ports. These funds are needed to implement the food highway and the roll-on, roll-off component of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway which will establish a parallel, sea-land transport system for tourism.

The food highway has two components—the bulk grains highway which would bring rice, corn and sugar from Mindanao to Northern Luzon, and the cold chain highway which would re-engineer the logistics system for fruits and vegetables to ensure their freshness in Metro Manila homes.

The project is aimed at bringing down the substantial losses arising from product wastage during the processing, storage, packaging and transportation of agriculture commodities. At least 30 percent of rice harvest from Mindanao is wasted due to the shabby logistics system; 13 percent for corn; up to 32 percent for fruits; 42 percent for vegetables and 5 percent for meat.

Aside from the roll-on, roll-off projects, the government is expecting investments of P3.5 billion for long-haul shipping; P2.19 billion, post-harvest facilities, and P1.9 billion, shipyard projects.

Anti-dirty money agency needs ₱350M over 5 years

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT needs to raise P350 million to put more teeth to efforts to stop money laundering activities in the country.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday told reporters that the inter-agency Anti-Money Laundering Council would raise the required operating funds from various multilateral donors over the next five years.

"Based on our initial estimate, we will need at least $7 million over five years just to put up the database and reporting mechanism," Buenaventura said.

The AMLC, which also has as members representatives from the Securities and Exchange Commission, will need a year to set up the system, he said.

But the BSP chief is confident that the Philippines will finally be stricken off the list of uncooperative countries by Paris-based Financial Action Task Force Against Money Laundering.

Even as the Philippines recently passed a law tightening measures against money laundering, FATF would like to see how the amendments would be implemented before removing the country from the blacklist.

The amended law against money laundering has lowered the threshold for bank accounts that can be investigated to P500,000 down from the P4 million prescribed in the earlier law passed in 2001. Also, investigators are no longer required to get a court order to probe suspicious accounts.

Cebu power distributor, IPP OK renegotiation of sales deal

CEBU City businessmen and politicians are at odds over a possible power rate hike as a major power crisis looms in the city in view of the impending shutting down of an independent power producer's (IPP) operations due to substantial losses.

Cebu City representatives Raul del Mar and Antonio Cuenco warned Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) chair Manuel Sanchez against any power rate hike that could solve the impasse between the city's power distributor Visayan Electric Company (Veco) and IPP Cebu Private Power Corp. (CPPC).

In an ERC hearing held last week in Cebu City, Cuenco told Sanchez that the city's political leadership was opposed to both a rate hike and rotating brownouts."

Cebuano Senator John Osmena also warned VECO against filing any petition for a rate hike or risk putting its franchise renewal application in jeopardy.

Cebu business leaders, however, said they were willing to absorb a reasonable rate hike to avert a power crisis.

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president Carlos Co said the increase "is better than rotating brownouts".

The hearing which was presided over by Sanchez was held due to a scheduled shutdown by CPPC, which supplies a huge 25 percent of Veco's requirements. CPPC told the utility company in a letter last month that it would cease operations on June 15 due to substantial financial losses.

This developed as Veco and CPPC agreed to renegotiate their electricity sales contract. A National Power Corp.'s plan to hold off the implementation of a rate hike in the Visayas electricity grid could hamper the negotiation.

Sanchez said the ERC would formally ask Napocor why it had not implemented a rate hike of about 16 centavos per kilowatt-hour for the Visayas grid.

He said CPPC had agreed to supply electricity to Veco for another 45 days, during which the two firms would hammer out a new deal.

Ronnel W. Domingo

Safeguards for cement sector urged

CITIZENS' Alliance for Consumer Protection chair Raul E. Segovia expressed support for the immediate enforcement of "permanent safeguard measures" against imported cement.

Segovia lauded the recent decision of the Court of Appeals (CA), upholding the authority of the secretary of trade and industry to impose safeguard measures against the surge of imported cement in the market to protect the local industry.

He said the decision had clarified a gray area and, in effect, protected cement consumers and the thousands of workers in the industry.

Segovia said massive cement imports never benefited consumers explaining that prices of cement in a market dominated by imports beginning 1999 reached P150 per bag. When Trade Secretary Mar Roxas imposed a provisional tariff, prices went down to P108-P112 per bag.

Citing the CA decision, CACP called for the immediate imposition of permanent safeguard measures on imported cement for prices to stabilize and make the local cement industry viable again.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Boracay records highest tourist arrival in 8 years

IT WAS when the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and terrorism hit the Philippines and the rest of the world that the country's top tourist destination Boracay reached biggest number of tourists visiting the island since 1996.

For the first trimester of 2003 covering January to April, 130,572 tourists-103,449 of whom were Filipinos-trooped to Boracay in Malay, Aklan and poured in revenues of P1 billion to the local government, disclosed Aklan Gov. Florencio T. Miraflores.

He added that in the month of April, when tourist arrivals were at its peak, April 2003 likewise recorded the biggest number of tourists with 61,191, 56,471 of whom were domestic tourists.

Miraflores said the increase in tourist arrivals last summer was somehow boosted by the huge number of local tourists who decided to spend their vacation in Boracay instead of going out of the country due to the SARS scare.

The governor said this year's goal is to break the 2002 record with a total of 300,792 and generated P2.3 billion. He is confident that this would now be achievable given the new improvements already put in place by the province of Aklan.

The governor refers to the newly improved Caticlan Jetty Port and Terminal and the airports in Kalibo and Caticlan made more spacious and secure, as well as the accessible and affordable trips going to Boracay via Roro (roll-on-roll-off) on the "Strong Republic Nautical Highway" from Manila to Caticlan inaugurated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

NEWSDEALERS VISIT INQUIRER

Inquirer AVP for circulation Glo Lardizabal (3rd from right) and Inquirer circulation manager for sales and promotions Bien Baltazar each hand over a framed collage of souvenir pictures of the recent Newsdealers' Day to Newspaper, Magazine and Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines (NMCDAP) president Ben Tabianan (5th from left) and Print Media Dealers Organization (PMDO) chair Danny Jose (5th from right) during their visit to the Inquirer offices recently. It was also an opportunity to thank both organizations for the support they had extended to the Inquirer over the years. Two independent research firms, AC Nielsen and Asia Research Organization came out recently with their respective readership surveys showing the Inquirer as the most widely read newspaper nationwide. Also shown are (from left) Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso, circulation manager for operations Andrew Chanco, newsdealers Fred Lumayno, Carlito Corro, Emil Galos and Inquirer provincial circulation manager Rene Langahin.

Mapua bares gains under quarterm system

THE MAPUA Institute of Technology, the country's leading private engineering school, reported that its quarterm system, compared to the traditional semestral enrollment, has yielded "very encouraging academic results and significantly improved student performance."

Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, Mapua president, recently said that a year after embarking on the quarterm system, Mapua students performed better with a reduced number of subjects, 4 to 5 in 11 quarterm weeks, compared to the 7 to 8 courses in 18 semestral weeks.

"Mapua engineering students, notably the upperclassmen and freshmen, made known in a survey that they are now more focused and that they better acquire and appreciate knowledge and technological skills using Mapua's state-of-the-art laboratory facilities and equipment," said Vea.

Historically producing the country's best engineers, builders and architects since the 1930s, Mapua has recently pioneered the large-scale implementation of the European/American quarterm system that enables a student to finish the erstwhile five-year civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical and other engineering degrees in only four years without diminution of educational content.

"A number of parents are equally elated that their children can become full-fledged engineers and employable after only four years at no additional cost," said Milagros V. Reyes, Mapua EVP for administration.

"And equally important, students are assured to be more focused on their studies as they have less time for non-productive activities under the quarterm system of Mapua," she added.

"With lesser subject loads per term, Vea said, both professors and students are in a gratifying intensive teaching-learning experience with the 11-week quarterm. "And the students showed better academic performance based on the recent evaluation of the general weighted average of students. The number of our academic scholars increased by 50 percent. Our graduates in Electronics and Communications Engineering, who caught the quarterm in their last year, garnered five of the top 10 places in the most recent board exams," Vea said.

Vea also announced Mapua would adopt in the coming years a permanent student-centered advising method, wherein a Mapua professor would advise, assist, guide and monitor a student's performance and studies continuously from first year until his/her graduation within four years or less.

To ensure also that first-year enrollees from different high schools nationwide can cope with the demands of Mapua's newly developed Math curriculum based on international standards, Vea said Mapua is offering a specially designed enrichment course in Algebra.

Dubbed as "Math Plus", the 36-hour program to be held in the whole month of June will hone freshmen's foundation to strengthen understanding of Mapua's globally oriented mathematics, engineering, architecture and information technology (IT) programs. For school year 2003-2004, Mapua's classes start on July 14, he added.

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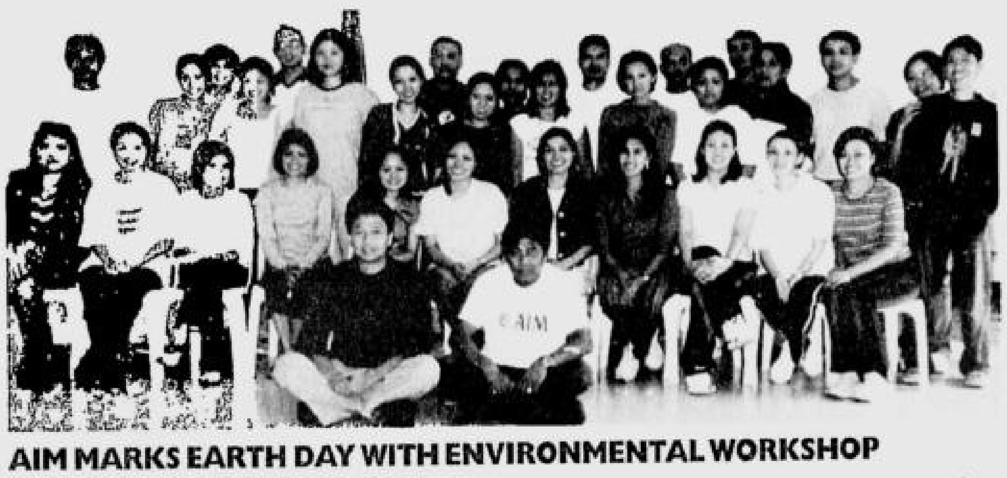
Labong Lodge #59 and Kamanava Travellers' Inc. under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines recently donated food stuff and shirts to the Shepherd of the Hills Orphanage in San Antonio, Zambales. Shown are the recipients of the goods with Worshipful Master Nelson Yaki and president Bro. Jun Cunanan.

ASIA-PACIFIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Extra Joss was awarded the Outstanding Powdered Energy Drink brand by the Asia-Pacific Awards Council of the Philippines May 11. Shown is the regional promotions manager of Extra Joss Lewi Kurniawan accepting the awards. Also shown are members of the organizing committee of the Asia-Pacific Awards Council and the National Consumer Affairs Foundation. Extra Joss is the new sugar-free energy drink in powder containing Vitamin B complex and ginseng, which can stimulate stamina.

J&J, PDCE, PDA PARTNER FOR DIABETES ADVOCACY

Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines is forging a partnership with the Philippine Diabetes Association (PDA) and the Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation (Diabetes Center) to embark on a merged advocacy campaign for diabetes management. The advocacy campaign will involve the use of tri-media advertising, testimonies from actual diabetics who have triumphed over the disease, and fund-raising activities to further the cause of diabetes awareness. The Diabates Center and PDA will be providing professional advice and reference materials for accurate information dissemination, while Johnson & Johnson will be providing tri-media support and fund-raising activities. The MOA signing ceremony is shown led by PCDE president Augusto Litonjua MD (2nd from left), PDA president Rosa Allyn Sy MD (4th from left), and J&J Medical Philippines managing director Michael del Prado (3rd from left). Also shown are, from left, Nemia N. Joson, franchise director, Dr. Tommy S. Ty Willing, PDA secretary, and Susan Trinidad, diabetes nurse educator.



AIM MARKS EARTH DAY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the first graduate school of management education in the world to be awarded ISO 14001 Certification for its environmental management system (EMS), joined in the international celebration of Earth Day by holding the EMS training workshop for its environmental officers at the AIM Conference Center in Baguio City. Through physical exercises, processing and group discussions, the evaluation, planning and team-building seminar fostered camaraderie and team spirit among the environmental officers and key EMS officers, and developed an action plan on conservation and reduction programs. The seminar was conducted by AIM's EMS director Marie Garrovillas (seated, 5 from right), with the assistance of Angela Mundo. As a school of business and development management, AIM is committed to sustaining the growth of Asian societies by developing professional, entrepreneurial, and socially responsible leaders and managers. In pursuit of this commitment, AIM ensures the efficient delivery and productive use of natural, human, technological, and social resources entrusted to it by society within its workplace and community.

BCHS CLASS HOSTS BINANGONAN SINGING CHALLENGE

BCHS Class 1968-1969, in celebration of its 34 anniversary and in its desire to assemble the best talents of Binangonan and give its people wholesome quality entertainment, hosted the 1st Binangonan Inter-Barangay Singing Challenge May 1 at the Rodriguez Park, Binangonan, Rizal. The event was a success as shown by the turnout of a big crowd that night. Photo at left shows winners, from left, Jessa Paralejas Pangan, 3rd place, from Barangay Kinaboogan, Rosanna Regpala Rabaja and Liezl Bernaldez Pascual, 2nd place, from Barangay Tagpos and Pantok, respectively, and Michael Evangelista, grand prize, from Barangay Libid. Right photo shows Mayor Cesar M. Ynares and Suzette Ranillo awarding the grand prize to Evangelista.

Exceeding travel expectations

NOW IS the time to take advantage of domestic travel. A few hours away from Manila, you will find places that will exceed your traveling expectations.

In Subic, there's everything you'll ever need for a relaxing vacation: sun, sea, and sand. Add to that the most comfortable temporary residence you'll ever find in the former American military base.

Legenda Hotel is the only five-star hotel at the Subic Bay Freeport. The magnificent vista on the beach from the room veranda is already a giveaway. This posh hotel's amenities and facilities are truly first-rate to make your stay pleasant and makes you come back for more.

The 247-room hotel is fully furnished with modern conveniences like in-room safety deposit box, mini-bar, television set with cable services. Laundry services and room service are available all day and night.

Fitness buffs will not have to skip their exercise regimen as Legenda Hotel is equipped with a health and fitness center, swimming pool, spa with jacuzzi, sauna and steam bath facilities.

A choice of authentic Cantonese, Peking and Szechuan cuisine is just a table away at the Museum Restaurant. Le Café offers world-class continental cuisine spiced up by a breathtaking view of Subic Bay at the mezzanine.

Legenda's Lobby Lounge features singers and good music to soothe your tired mind and body. Groups can hie off to Neptune KTV and Disco Club. And for those who really want to have fun, check out the casino that is always open.

Legenda has a yacht available for bay cruises. For reservations, call 732-9888 or (047)252-1888.

Wedding affair for brides, grooms

GUESTS can expect a lot of prizes, fun and a variety of suppliers at the upcoming wedding exhibit dubbed "A Bridal Affair" to be held on Aug. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

Have fun while preparing for your very special day. Get a chance to win exciting prizes such as hotel accommodations and complimentary buffet lunches at The Hyatt Regency Manila and The Palm Hotels. Also to be given away are hair extensions from Bergmann Hair, and world-class art pieces created by Excel Frames & Décor-the winner of the Grand Prize in Quality Awards in Paris, New York, and Geneva, Switzerland.

Visit www.bridalaffair.net to register today. Suppliers will be treated to free lunch and dinner for up to two people per booth on both days and guests will be able to indulge in the delicious flavors of Hizon's Catering. No other than Starbucks will provide wonderful choices of snacks and drinks to tickle your taste buds and quench your thirst throughout the exhibit.

Interested wedding suppliers can call Jeannette Nocon at 982-8096 or 0917-5312284. "A Bridal Affair" is brought to you by Joey@92.3 and Hizon's Catering.

Wall Street stocks soar

NEW YORK—US stocks climbed by midday on Monday, as an economic report showing a rebound in New York's manufacturing sector fed investors' hopes that the wider economy will recover later this year.

Earlier, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said its Empire State Manufacturing Survey soared to its highest level in its two-year history. The report, which measures factory activity in New York State, gave a glimmer of hope for the nation's stagnant manufacturing sector.

Though not a widely watched indicator, the New York Fed report "reinforces a trend we've seen, in that almost any news is good news," said Mike Driscoll, managing director of trading at Bear Stearns.

Money managers, who are afraid of missing the 3-month-old rally and underperforming the markets' benchmarks, scooped up shares and drove major stock indexes higher, traders said.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 134 points, or 1.47 percent, to 9,251.24. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 16 points, or 1.57 percent, to 1,004.11. The tech-laced Nasdaq Composite Index was up 28 points, or 1.70 percent, at 1,654.21.

Expectations that the US economy is poised for a recovery in the year's second half have fueled a fierce rally in stocks.

Since hitting its low for the year on March 11, the broader S&P 500 index has climbed 25 percent.

"We have low interest rates that will probably head even lower, a greater likelihood that earnings expectations will be met since they were cut drastically reduced, and talk of a housing bubble has eased," Driscoll said.

About 658 million shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange and 1 billion shares traded on Nasdaq, in heavy volume.

Reuters

POOR TRACK RECORD

IMF reforms fall short

WASHINGTON—The reforms the International Monetary Fund has implemented to prevent or at least better handle global financial crises fall far short in a number of critical areas, congressional auditors said.

The General Accounting Office said that the IMF's primary forecasting tool, its "World Economic Outlook," had a poor track record in making forecasts about possible recessions or such key variables as a country's trade deficit.

The GAO review found that of the 134 recessions that occurred in 87 developing countries from 1991 through 2001, the IMF was able to predict only 15 of the downturns or 11 percent.

And its track record at predicting future trade deficits was just as bad. The GAO said that in 75 percent of its forecasts on the trade deficit for next year, the IMF would have been closer to the mark if it had just assumed that this year's trade deficit would be repeated next year.

The GAO said that the weak forecasting record of the IMF's "World Economic Outlook," which the agency publishes twice a year, demonstrates "poor performance in anticipating the severe financial crises of the past decade."

IMF critics said the findings underscored their concerns that the agency has not gone far enough in overhauling its operations since the Mexican peso crisis of 1995 and the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis which pushed 40 percent of the global economy into recession.

In response to the criticism, IMF first deputy managing director Anne Krueger wrote that the agency was working to improve the timeliness and coverage of new country monitoring reports, which it hopes will supplement its twice-a-year "World Economic Outlook" forecasts.

But she said that the IMF would be wrong to predict potential crises in the WEO forecast because those predictions could quickly become self-fulfilling prophecies, triggering a mad rush to the exits by foreign investors.

AP

Euro nears record high

NEW YORK—The euro edged to within a whisker of its all-time high point against the dollar Monday on interest rate cut expectations but later backed down in the wake of a rally on Wall Street.

The single European currency hit a peak of 1.1930 in the morning before slipping back to 1.1825 dollars, from 1.1861 late on Friday in New York. The record level, reached last month, was 1.1933.

The dollar was at 117.72 yen against 117.41 on Friday.

The dollar hit a four-and-a-half year low on the British pound earlier before rebounding as a powerful rally on Wall Street sparked demand for greenbacks.

Analysts are expecting a rate cut June 25 by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which could cause a widening of the interest rate spread between the US and Europe.

Disappointing consumer confidence data on Friday tipped the balance even further in favor of a rate cut, which as a rule stimulates a country's economy but weakens its currency.

Traders were awaiting new data in an attempt to predict by how much Federal Reserve policy makers would cut the interest rate, already at a 42-year low of 1.25 percent.

MMS International currency analyst Will Rugg said the dollar's early fall was "a hangover from the drop in US equities Friday." After the release Monday of stronger-than-expected US Federal Reserve Bank of New York's monthly survey of regional manufacturing activity, US stocks rose over 1.5 percent in morning New York trading.

That prompted the dollar to take back earlier losses, Rugg said.

Some of the pound's newfound attraction has been attributed to Britain's higher yields on government debt, when compared with Germany or the US.

Rugg said sterling's strength comes "against a background of interest rate expectations that is positive for sterling," as the Bank of England appears less likely to ease interest rates compared with the euro area or US.

ABN Amro analyst Aziz McMahon said that the markets were steeling themselves for, among other data, a likely all-time record US quarterly current account deficit later this week. *AFP*

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₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	6.750%	7.000%	7.250%
₱5,000,001 and above	7.000%	7.250%	7.500%
DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.500%	1.500%	1.500%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.875%	1.875%	1.875%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.750%	2.750%	2.750%
$ 500,001 and above	3.125%	3.125%	3.125%

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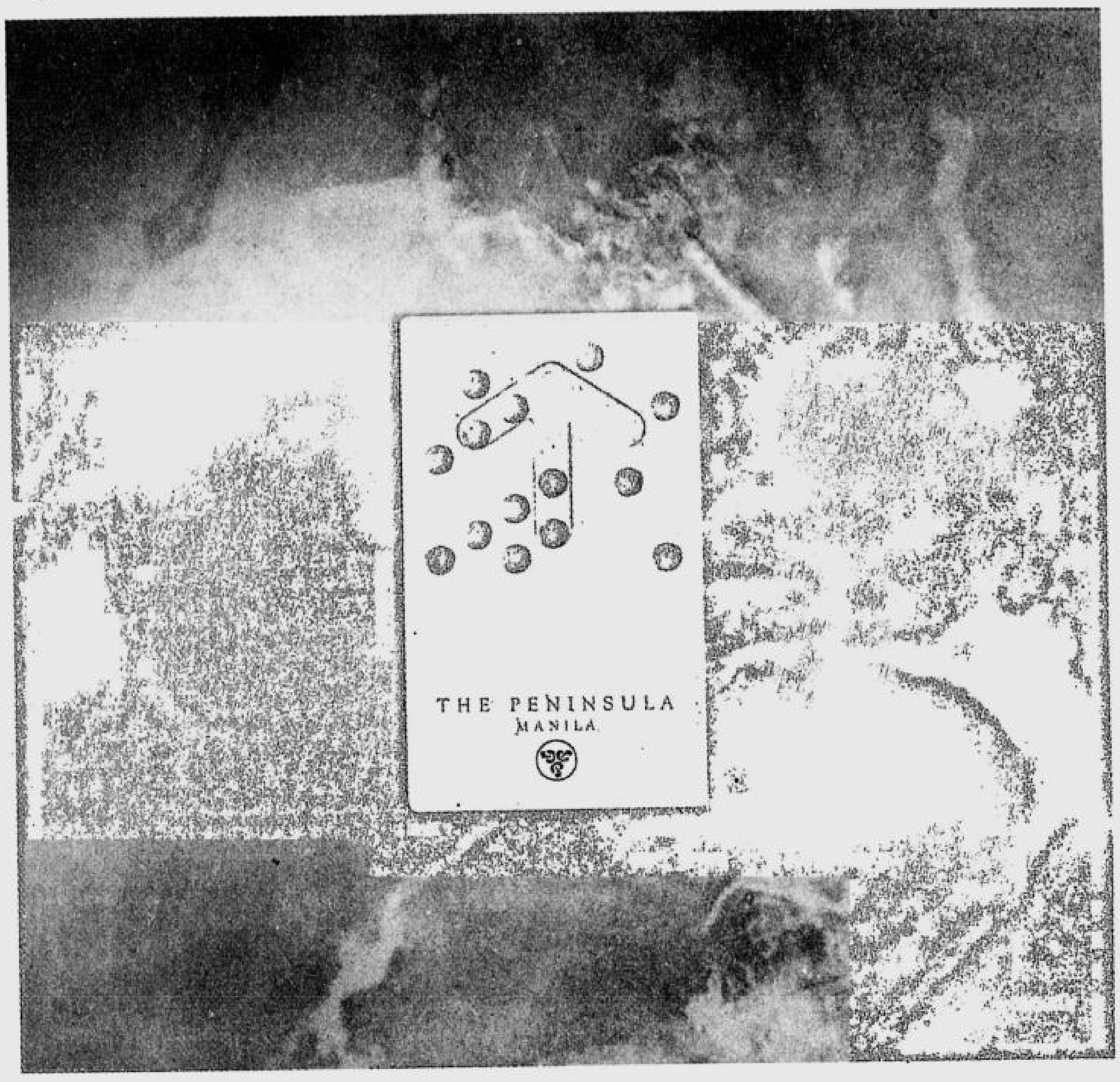

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Leadership lessons from Bush

By Regina Galang Reyes

FLASHPOINT

TEAM Bush: Leadership Lessons from the Bush White House (McGraw Hill 2003) is about George Bush, America's 43rd president, and how America's first MBA president manages the White House and the most powerful country in the world today. Now, depending on which side of the war (and presidential election) you are on, this title may either be an embarrassment or an honor for MBA degree holders all over the world.

Aura of confidence

The book is not based on interviews of the author with President Bush but rather on various sources like longtime friends and colleagues and publications. But it does present some revealing facets of the reserved Bush whose air of confidence (he is fond of saying "I am confident...I am determined...) is a mystery to many Asians. But it does unearth how Bush got to the top post with neither academic brilliance nor business achievements. As the book shows, Bush's skill lies more in decide-and-delegate leadership style, a manner proven to be very effective for CEOs.

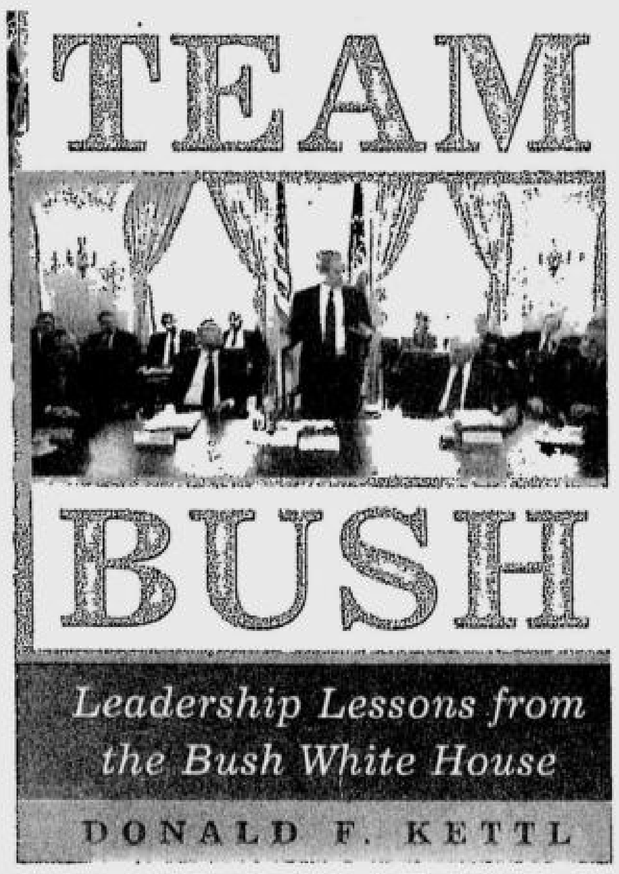
Author Donald F. Kettl provides a comprehensive view of Bush, the "CEO" who was able to build, (at least according to the author), one of history's most talented cabinets, "Team Bush." He is, depicted as having many odds stacked against him, starting with being a president who was not able to obtain a substantial lead over the other presidential candidate, initially burdened with an unsympathetic House and Senate, and somehow lacking the charisma of a Clinton or a Reagan. However, despite all these odds, he still managed to end up on the winning side of most situations.

Team building

And how did Bush do this? According to Kettl, it is because he applied the basic principles of team building. He quotes Bush, "I hope the American people realize that a good executive is one that understands how to recruit people and how to delegate, how to align authority and responsibility, how to hold people accountable for results, and how to build a team of people."

Digging into MBA textbooks, one can find the prescription that an organization is best lead in three ways: through the formal organization structure, through policies and through personal contacts of the leaders with the members of the organization. Kettl shows that Bush excelled in these areas. He was able to build and work through his Cabinet and White House organization, stick to long-held principles on leadership and management and tailor-fit his communication style to the people he encounters. Perhaps herein lies the secret of Bush's effective leadership—one based on results and performance-which draws on tried and tested management principles applied on the grandest scale of all-the American nation.

Well, for CEOs, managers and leader wannabes, "Team Bush" is worth checking out for some leadership lessons. Who knows, perhaps our government leaders may pick up a useful thing (and more) from the president who began with low expectations from his constituents and emerged triumphant in the toughest of challenges.



How do you manage someone you can't see?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Dear WW: My boss wanted to score points with his boss so he volunteered my department to be our company's telecommuting pilot program. I've tried to talk him out of it but it's no use.

Phone From Home? No Way!

I was dense when it came to 5th grade science. "Is there a hole in the middle of the wire that the electricity goes through?" I asked, "or do the little electrons crawl along the outside of the wire?" I can still see the frustration etched on Mrs. Bloom's face, fully aware that I was full of even dumber questions.

Just as I struggled with how electricity travels over electric wires, many bosses wonder how their management skills will travel over phone lines. "Out of sight...are you out of your mind?" is the reaction of most of the managers I've interviewed. To them, telecommuting is like AOL's first attempt to create an unlimited Internet access plan-great in theory but worse than useless if you wanted a productive connection.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Telecommuting tips

For all of them-and you-I recommend "Making Telecommuting Happen" (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1994) by Jack Niles, the man who's been called the "father of telecommuting." It includes an entire section on how to manage someone you can't see. The following questions have been adapted from it:

Have you carefully identified the people and projects for your pilot program? Just like spandex, telecommuting isn't for everybody. Look for people who are disciplined, motivated, independent, and who want to try working at home. Also, look for projects that can be completed in relative isolation.

How will you know if they're working? You won't, unless you establish specific and measurable outcomes for each telecommuter and check in regularly. The irony, of course, is that some of the people currently under your "watchful eye" are probably spending time socializing, playing solitaire or surfing the 'Net. It just looks like they're working. Come to think of it, you might want to develop specific and measurable job outcomes for all your employees. What a concept!

Face-to-face contact

Can you manage someone you can't see? Effective management involves communication and rapport-and, chances are, both will be harder to maintain when face-to-face contact is minimized. Nilles suggests you send routine information electronically and save complex or emotional information for face-to-face meetings.

Can you keep them informed about what is going on back at the office?

Successful telecommuting programs suggest workers be brought into the office regularly for meetings and social events. Social events? Yes. People need formal and informal networks to do their job and feel part of the team.

Believe it or not, it's good business to occasionally let them eat cake.

I stood on a downtown street corner and surveyed office workers about what they liked most about telecommuting. The top vote-getter: "the ability to work in your underwear." So in the finest journalistic tradition, I wrote this entire column in my boxers. I can conclusively report that working in your underwear is cool. Of course, I might feel differently in winter.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

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Working mom's PTA blues

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

IT was election time again for parent class representatives and my eyes darted to the nearest window, out to the school gate, on to the street beyond, onward to oblivion. It's a trick I'm beginning to master come election time at school-avoid eye contact, look totally disinterested (even bored), and put on an irresponsible pout. It's not that I don't want to do things for my daughter's school. It's just that I don't want to have to apologize for being a working mom.

No competition

Last year, I didn't know better. Over-enthusiastic because it was my daughter's first year in a new school, I accepted the nomination to be class representative, among four others. They cheered as I accepted the position, relieved, I suppose, that somebody else had fallen for the trap. I went to the first PTA meeting brimming with good intentions. But I never came back.

Call me over-sensitive, but what I found there was the Ku Klux Klan of working moms-a whole phalanx of stay-at-home moms who were ready to spend hours in school, hours calling other parents for the next meeting, and hours making sandwiches for it. They were nice to me, mind you. Too nice. They were too willing to take over too quickly. But with every responsibility they took away from me because I couldn't squeeze it into my schedule, they lay a brick of guilt. Brick by brick, layer by layer the guilt piled on until there was no going through it, no climbing over it.

Losing to guilt

Educational experts say a child's chance of excelling improves when a parent is actively involved in the school. Our presence sends the message that we support their effort and believe in them. That's why I allowed myself to be buried in guilt. But when PTA meetings are called in the middle of the day and stretch until the kids are dismissed, working moms lose out.

So here's a survival kit for working moms:

- Get a copy of the school calendar ahead and discuss this in detail with your child's teacher. Ask what activities are optional and which ones are mandatory. Find out what you will miss if you skip a particular event and what you will gain if you join another.
- At the start of the school year, enter the important events in your calendar. This will give you ample time to plan around the event.
- Choose one or two school activities that you would like to volunteer for. Check the dates of these against your work cycle. Make sure these events don't fall on the days when you know the workload will be heavy.
- In particular, take note of the school programs and presentations. The Christmas program is a must, get it on your calendar early.

Office skills

- Use your office skills—network, network, network. Get to know at least one stay-at-home mom in the school. You can rely on her to keep you posted on events in school. Go out of your way to get to know your child's homeroom teacher. Ask for her cell number so that it will be easy for you to reach her. Make friends with the PTA head just so that you stay in the loop.
- If you hold a job that will be interesting to kids, offer to give a talk about your job to the class or better yet, offer to take the class to your place of work. Again, choose a time when the workload at your office isn't so heavy.

Most of all, don't let the guilt get to you. Roll your eyes or stare out the window.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of Metro Working Mom. Email feedback An_Alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com*)*

Companies...

From page B0

instruction manuals on motivation that state, "To motivate college graduates, install batteries and press the 'ON' button." We wish it were that easy! And yet, motivation is mostly what companies look for in a job applicant, at least at the very start.

Motivation defined

Motivation is made up of three parts: energy, direction and persistence. Energy implies power, an ability to act, and the capacity to get things done. You show a lot of energy describing what you did in college, but energy alone is not enough. It must have a direction, i.e., be directed toward some end, hopefully consistent with the goals of the organization you wish to work for. You have to be energetic about something.

The third element of motivation is persistence. A motivated person does not quit on a task at the first sign of difficulty; rather, a motivated person works to overcome obstacles, even when the obstacles are seemingly insurmountable. Someone said before, "Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit."

Selection process

Beyond the initial energy leveling, companies use a selection process that uncovers essential knowledge, skills, abilities and values to ensure the success of the applicant in a job role. At our company, the core of our selection process is called the IBM Profile for Excellence and it has three pillars: technical and professional expertise, personal leadership competencies and core capabilities.

Technical and professional expertise refers to the knowledge and skills that an individual acquires through education, training and experience. Examples include software development, programming skills, accounting principles, engineering specialties, human resource knowledge, work processing skills, etc.

On the other hand, personal leadership skills are unique individual qualities such as creativity, breakthrough thinking, the drive to achieve, teamwork and team leadership, decision-making, and personal dedication. People who possess these qualities help propel our company to an industry leadership role.

Core competencies

We are also on the lookout for certain core capabilities necessary to be successful in any job role at the company. These capabilities include strategic thinking, communication skills (that's where you show strength), love for learning, planning and organizational skills, problem solving and troubleshooting, and the ability to accept change and cultural diversity in the workplace.

So you see, Deeply Troubled, it is far too early to give up on your aspirations. Be prepared to write to more than 160 corporations, not just 16. More than 300,000 students graduated with you last year and each one will want to land a job. Relying purely on newspaper ads is not going to do it. Talk to as many people as possible. Write even more compelling letters to companies. Participate in seminars and workshops. Remember, you have to find the job. The job won't find you.

Multi-skills

Also, today's business requirements require multi-disciplinary skills. Your engineering skills combined with your communications skills should be an advantage, not a disadvantage. Compete on the side of your personal strengths, not on your weaknesses.

Finally, take a small advice from Brian Tracy, one of the world's leading authorities on personal and business success who said, "Your ability to persist in the face of setbacks and disappointments is vital to all great achievement and it's always a result of a decision you make. It's not the external environment, it's the internal environment." Decide to be a winner.

(Do you want to learn from Mr. Quintos' experiences? Send your letters requesting for career advice to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. *Mr. Quintos and eight other CEOs will answer your letters through this column.)*

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The bereaved family and relatives
of the late

CLAUDIO DAYRIT HIDALGO

Who died on June 4, 2003

wish to express their sincere thanks and profound gratitude to all those who offered Masses, prayers, sent flowers and words of sympathy, kept vigil and attended the cremation and who, in one way or another, condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

Bienvenida Fernandez Roque

March 22, 1915 - June 16, 2003

Memorial service will be held on June 20, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

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ANTONIO ARAULLO YUPANGCO

Passed away peacefully in the grace
of the Lord on June 16, 2003

His bereaved wife, **Teresita Yupangco Yupangco**; and his children, **Antonio, Jr.** and **Suzanne (Gaerlan)**, **Yvonne** and **Edgardo (Pascual)**, **Marissa** and **Vicente (Pacheco)**, **Pilar** and **Roberto (Peña)**, **Felipe †**, **Cecile** and **Rodolfo (de los Reyes)**.

His grandchildren, **Rosette**, **Monica**, **Patty**, **Ricky**, **Ysabel**, **Katrina**, **Carlo**, **Ria**, **Sean**, **Paolo**, **Timmy** and **Javier**.

His siblings and in-laws, **Vicente †** and **Emma (Lopez) †**, **Graciano †** and **Nita (Laurel)**, **Doroteo** and **Lydia (Reyes)**.

Hold his memory dearly and cherish his life dedicated to God, family and colleagues.
His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Chapels, at Forbes Park, Makati.
Interment will be announced later.

We, his family, request all relatives and friends to join us in prayer for his eternal rest.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to his favorite charity.

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Led by his bereaved wife, **AIDA C. ENRIQUEZ**,
would like to express their gratitude to
friends and relatives who kept vigil;
gave mass cards and flowers;
offered special masses;
and prayed with
the family for his
eternal happiness in heaven.

There was a man who lived by His perfect Grace.
Although incomparable to His, the man's love never failed.
And in life and in death, his faith remains.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

GUADALUPE CASTAÑEDA BARREIRO

December 12, 1919 - June 16, 2003

The Risen One came to take her home.

Her bereaved brothers and sisters **Alfredo Jr.** and **Simplicia**, **Manuel** (†) and **Nimfa** (†), **Sis. Irene, ICM**, **Jose** (†) and **Esperanza**, **Jesus** (†) and **Gloria**, **Antonio** (†) and **Zenaida**, nephews, nieces and grandchildren will sadly miss her, but the memory of her selfless love will forever be in their hearts.

Tita Upeng is at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church, Daily Mirror St., West Triangle, Quezon City. Interment will be on June 21, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

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finds
his life
will
lose it,
and
whoever
loses
his life
for my
sake
will
find it.
Matthew 10:39

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."
John 14:6

PERLA OBSUM VDA. DE RODRIGUEZ

Died in the Grace of the Lord at the
Makati Medical Center at the age of 88.

Her bereaved children **Ma. Paz** and **Claudio Hidalgo** (†), **Cecilia**, **Isabel & Edgardo Dimaano**, **Angelita** and **Lee Beck**, **Astria & Jose Guevara** (†), **Victoria & Manuel Manzano** (†), **Aurora & Augusto Barrios**, **Bernardita & Emiliano Sabino**, and **Ma. Celina**; grandchildren, great grandchildren & relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Himlayang Pilipino on Friday, June 20, 2003 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Nacional Memorial Homes.

I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through Me.
John 14:6

TOMAS ZALASAR DADIA

OF BLUE RIDGE, Q.C. & TAYABAS, QUEZON PEACEFULLY RETURNED TO GOD, THE LORD HE LOVED AND SERVED FAITHFULLY

DECEMBER 29, 1929 – JUNE 15, 2003

His bereaved wife **Gracia Alandy**; children & in-laws **Gilda & Zeus** (Custodio), **Marlo, Ray & Lulu** (Pascual), **Elo & Junn** (Gonzales), **Arlene & Bob** (Torres), **Emily & Ruel** (Torres); grandchildren **Eugene, Earl & Grace, Erica, Edward, Timmy, Teetap, Cathrina, Chris, Jeffrey, Carissa, Arlby, Amanda, Tom, Trisha & Trinna** and great grandson **Marcus**.

In-laws **Letty Alandy Checoura, Bods** and **Manny Alandy & Larry Tolentino**, Relatives & Friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the **CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, GREEN MEADOWS.**

INTERMENT will be on **Friday, JUNE 20, 2003** at **LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK, MARIKINA** after the 1:00 PM Mass.

DEATH NOTICES

Arnedo C. Tuazon
Died June 15, 2003 at the age of 77.

His remains lie in state at the Luna Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.
Interment will be announced later.

Marcelino Reyes Raymundo
Died June 16, 2003 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, 511 A. Mabini St., Caloocan City.
Interment will be announced later

Ephraim Macatiag Campos
Died June 15, 2003
at the age of 37.

His body lies in state at his hometown in Sinait Ilocos Sur.

Atty. Jose Oro "Boy" B. Fajardo
Died June 15, 2003 at the age of 53.
His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Q.C.
Interment will be on Friday, June 20, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Central Office Bids & Awards Committee
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz Manila 1003
Trunk Line: 743-8301 local 1150-1151; Telefax: 711-6061
Website: www.doh.gov.ph

June 16, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY, SHORTLISTING AND TO BID FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Department of Health (DOH) invites eligible firms duly registered with the DTI/SEC to participate in a public bidding for the selection of Internet Service Providers (ISP) for the DOH, San Lazaro Compound.

The requirements for eligibility and shortlisting the ISPs may be obtained from the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Secretariat, Procurement Division 2/F Building 26 from June 19 to 30, or may be downloaded from the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph). ISPs which wish to offer their services must submit an official Letter of Intent together with the required eligibility/shortlisting requirements to the DOH through the COBAC Secretariat or electronically, not later than June 30, 2003.

For shortlisted ISPs, a complete set of bid documents may be purchased from the COBAC Secretariat/Procurement Division upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from July 7 to July 11, 2003, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. The **Pre-Bid Conference** is on July 9, 2003 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m., Health Human Resource Development Bureau (HHRDB) Conference Room 3rd Floor, Building 12-A, San Lazaro Compound Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila and the deadline for the **Submission and Opening of Bids** is on July 18, 2003 (Friday) at 9:00 a.m. at the HHRDB Conference Room.

The Approved Budget for Contract is P2,000,000.00 per year.

DOH reserves the right to waive any abnormality in the responses to the eligibility and shortlisting requirements and to this invitation. DOH further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, annul the bidding process, declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairman, COBAC

(PDI – June 18 & 25, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE of UNSERVICEABLE STEEL TOWERS and SCRAP ACSRs
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 10, 2003 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: NPC SOLARIUM

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the following items:

SCHEDULE-I	ITEM DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot Unserviceable Steel Towers, used and retrieved from repairs, rehabs and retirements of NPC Transmission Lines. Located at LIGAO S/Y and DARAGA S/Y both in Albay	P 1,320,000.00 / lot

OPEN TO ALL SCRAP METAL BUYERS WHO CAN PRESENT THEIR T.I.N. AND INCOME TAX RETURN

SCHEDULE-II	ITEM DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 166,600 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Mexico Warehouse in Mexico, Pampanga	P 49.08 / kg.
2.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 10,000 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Dasmariñas Substation in Dasmariñas, Cavite	P 49.08 / kg.
3.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 100,000 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Ligao Stockyard in Ligao, Albay	P 49.08 / kg.
4.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 100,000 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Daraga Stockyard in Daraga, Albay	P 49.08 / kg.

PARTICIPATION IN THIS SCHEDULE-II IS LIMITED ONLY TO PREVIOUSLY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on July 10, 2003 at the Solarium Function Room, Bldg. 1, NPC, Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For Bid Forms at P 500.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no 922-8431 or 924-5384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM on July 9, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE;
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept / reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) F.B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI--June 16, 17 & 18, 2003)

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The following articles are offered for sale with their indicative (negotiable) prices:

Item	Location	Indicative Price
20' Container	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	PhP50,000 negotiable
Irrigation Materials (Drippers, LDPE Pipes, Coupling, etc.)	Brgy Sintunsan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	Negotiable

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885-3739 and (0917) 627 8288 or Mr. Anel Matubis at 885 3706. Offers should be sent to the above officers at Building E. Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than June 25, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority

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For wedding receptions, be awed at the transformation of this vast garden into a dreamland. Be prepared to walk on a red carpet, leading to a Roman-inspired decorated gazebo for the Bride and Groom. With capiz-enclosed lights hanging on the trees, an antique stone fountain in the center and fresh floral arrangements around the venue, truly, there is nothing more breathtaking than to express your wedding vows in a romantic and elegant *al fresco* setting.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP), hereinafter called "the Government" through the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) hereinafter called "the Employer", invites interested local and foreign contractors to apply for Eligibility and Prequalification and if prequalified to bid for the Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of the Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project – Baguio City Economic Zone.
2. This is the second invitation to Prequalify/Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the SEZEMP-Baguio City STP Construction Project. The Project description is still the same particularly.

   Budgetary Project Cost : P95M
   Source of Fund : GOP (PEZA)
   Construction Period : 365 Calendar Days
   Tentative Starting Date : October, 2003

   SCOPE OF WORK
   a. Construction of New Sewage Treatment Plant: (Aerated Lagoon System – 4,700 cu.m./day) to include the construction of facilities such as Grit Chamber, Settling Tank, Chlorination Chamber, Office/Laboratory Building, Equipment House, and Guard House.
   b. Construction of New Sewer Collection System (Combination of gravity lines and pressure force lines, Approx 1,970 Lm) including the construction of One (1) Lift Station.
   c. Provision of Site Works and Landscaping.
3. The application for pre-qualification is open to bona fide qualified contractor from all countries and areas. Foreign Contractor Applicants should be licensed in their own country/area, or has filed an application for Special License at PCAB, and must satisfy the requirements of EO 40, i.e. forming themselves into joint venture with local contractor; and Local Contractor Applicants must be holding PCAB "AAA" License & Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for Sewerage or Sewage System and/or Water Treatment Plant and System.
4. Contractors forming themselves into a Joint Venture shall comply with the provisions for the procurement of civil works under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, series of 2001 (EO 40).
5. In view of the size of the project and relative advanced construction and technology required, eligible contractors shall have an adequate expertise and experience in the similar projects. The Applicant must meet the following minimum requirement.
   - The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices completed and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.
   - Successful experience in the execution of at least three (3) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having a capacity of at least 1,000 cu.m. per day or at least one (1) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having the capacity of more than 4,000 cu.m. per day comparable to the proposed project within the last ten (10) years.
   - The prospective Applicant's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on his net working capital must be at least equal to the estimated budget for the contract.
6. Pre-qualification Document may be procured upon submission of the following:
   Letter of Intent, Authorization to Purchase Document, Certified True Copy of the Contractor's License and Certificate of Registration and Classification (for Local Contractor); and license in their own country/area (for Foreign Contractors).
7. Prequalification document will be available for issuance starting June 23, 2003 at the PEZA-SEZEMP Office c/o BAC Secretariat, 3/F Almeda Building, Roxas Blvd., cor. San Luis St., Pasay City, upon payment of non-refundable amount of P3,000.00. The deadline for submission of accomplished Pre-qualification Documents in sealed envelope (1-original & 5-copies) shall be on or before July 07, 2003, not later than 5:00 PM at the same venue mentioned above.
8. PEZA shall notify the Applicants regarding the results of the Pre-qualification evaluation on or about July 29, 2003. The plans and Bid Documents shall be issued by PEZA not later than July 29, 2003, upon payment by the pre-qualified contractor's of non-refundable amount of P30,000.00.
9. The tentative schedule of the Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on August 15 and August 22, 2003, respectively. Moreover, the date of bidding shall be on September 12, 2003; wherein the dropping and opening of bids shall be held at same venue as stated above at 10:00 AM.
10. All particulars relative to the procurement of the contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. 40, series 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulation.
11. PEZA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein, and accepts the offer most advantageous to the government.

BAC-Chairman
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

(PDI – June 18 & 25, 2003)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel No 750-2093
Telefax No 810-6416

Brgy Batangas Dos
Mariveles, Bataan
Tel No (047) 244-7441
Telefax No (047) 244-5883

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

Project Title/ Scope of Work	Similar Contracts	Amount of Credit Line/ Cash Deposit Certificate
One (1) Year "On-Call" Supply of Laborers and Equipment for Various Park Support Services (WSA-02-006)	Supply of manpower and equipment for various utility and maintenance services of industrial parks, commercial parks, universities	Pesos Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Only (P250,000.00)

A. The project is located at the Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, with funding to be provided by PPDC.

B. Only contractors duly registered with PPDC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Interested bidders must register not later than July 8, 2003. A list of basic requirements for registration is available from the BAC Secretariat at the PPDC Makati office.

C. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents will be issued to registered bidders from **June 23 - July 15, 2003**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P800.00.

D. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using a "PASS/FAIL" criteria, and only eligible bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. All bids shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Contractor's offer, subject to Post-qualification before an award is made.

E. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:
Pre-Bid Conference (PPDC-Bataan) - **July 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.**
Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Opening of Bids (PPDC Makati) - **August 08, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.**

F. All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

G. PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 18 & 26, 2003)

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NOTICE AND WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that our client, ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL (COMPAGNIE GENERALE D'OPTIQUE) S.A. of France, one of the world's leading manufacturers of optical apparatus and equipment, including spectacle glasses; sunglasses; various kinds of ophthalmic lenses; protective goggles and glasses; spectacle cases; equipment for opticians and ophthalmologists; software for remote ordering of goods and services relating to ophthalmic optics, sales promotion software; and software for professional use in the ophthalmic optics sector; is the legitimate owner and prior commercial user of its internationally famous trademarks **ESSILOR**, **VARILUX** and **e (logo)** (reproduced below) which it has used and is continuously using on its said various manufactured products and articles all over the world, including here in the Philippines where it has used said trademarks for more than a decade. Representation of these trademarks are shown below:

ESSILOR **VARILUX**

It has been brought to the attention of our client that some persons and entities are importing, selling, distributing, and dealing in counterfeit products which are identical or similar to our client aforesaid products and unlawfully using its above depicted **ESSILOR**, **VARILUX** and **e (logo)** trademarks. Said unauthorized use by any person or entity of these trademarks or any colourable imitation thereof constitutes infringement and unfair competition for which the parties involved may be held criminally and civilly liable.

WARNING IS THEREFORE GIVEN to any person or entity involved in the unlawful importation, sale, distribution or dealing of counterfeit products, using our client aforesaid trademarks, and to anyone who abets, assists or cooperates in any way in said unlawful acts and practices to immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from pursuing such fraudulent, unscrupulous, unlawful and illegal acts. Otherwise, we shall take all available legal actions and remedies to the fullest extent of the law to protect the rights and interest of our client.

MANUEL C. CASES, JR. & ASSOCIATES
Counsel for ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL
(COMPAGNIE GENERALE D'OPTIQUE) S.A.
7th Floor, Metropolitan Terraces Condominium,
Metropolitan Avenue, corner Sacred Heart St.,
1203 Makati City

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Fax No: 63 (2) 832 8236
E-Mail Address: seabird@pworld.net.ph
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FEATURED TOPIC AND SPEAKER SERIES

Session 11
Workshop: Where Do We Go From Here?

Tying the knot: Ideas + Strategies = An Enhanced Learning Environment

Prof. Henry S. Tenedero
President–CLTS

374-4967 • 373-5706 • 374-0973
Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, Philippines

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1 SAN JUAN, LA UNION
Tel. No. (072) 242-5909/10 Fax (072) 242-5908

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** Region 1, through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the Repair Roof replacement of Warehouse No. 2 at Barangay Carmay, Rosales, Pangasinan. Scope of works for the said repair works shall not be limited to the following:

1. Dismantling/piling of damaged roofings, flashing, gutters, ridge roll, and downspout, etc.
2. Chipping and removal of existing steel casement windows;
3. Installation of new pre-painted ordinary corr. roofings sheet, skylights, flashing gutter, ridge roll;
4. Installation of 6" PVC Pipe for center gutter and 4" PVC for front and side elevations;
5. Repair of continuous ridge ventilation;
6. Conversion of steel Casement windows into concrete louver windows with screen on both sides on aluminum frame (Note "6-units existing steel casement window to be replaced by 6" chb);
7. Repair and conversion of three (3) units steel doors to swing steel folded door;
8. Provision of three (3) units screen doors;
9. Repainting of all steel structures (columns, trusses, rafters, purlins, etc.) one (1) coat red oxide and two (2) coats aluminum
10. Repainting of all concrete structures two (2) coat (one coat flat, one coat emi-gloss);
11. Repair and rewiring of electrical system
12. Repair of drainage system
13. Cleaning and clearing of site

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

Issuance of RES Form	July 1-2, 2003	(8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Submission of Accomplished RES Form	July 15-16, 2003	(8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Contractors	July 30, 2003	(8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Pre-Bidding Conference	August 06, 2003	(10:00 a.m.)
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 20, 2003	(10:00 a.m.)

Contractor's Category LIMITED TO MEDIUM "A" for Building and Industrial Plant

Appropriated Budget P5,500,000.00

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated Bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and E.O 40 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR), as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form) may be secured and submitted at NFA-RPBAC Secretariat 2nd Floor, Regional Office, San Juan La Union upon presentation of Letter of Intent, updated PCAB/LAC License (Original) and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Plans and Specifications and Bidding documents, shall be issued to Eligible contractors/bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee P2,000.00.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect or formality, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIANO Q. MOLINA**
Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, NFA-RPBAC

(PDI - June 18 & 25 2003)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO RE-BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites prequalified/accredited contractors to submit sealed bids for the **JANITORIAL AND GENERAL SERVICES FOR PNOC EC HEAD OFFICE (NX02-359 R1).**

Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Operations Services Group (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro, Mr. Carlos L. Mejias or Mr. Emmanuelito A. Ababol) from June 18 to 27, 2003, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Hundred (PHP 300.00).

Sealed bids shall be received by the Contracts Administration not later than **2:00 o'clock p.m. of July 9, 2003 at PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Ft. Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila and then publicly opened at 2:15 p.m.** of the same date.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **July 1, 2003, 3:00 p.m. at PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Ft. Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.**

The public bidding shall incorporate the electronic bid submission, using the ITBF system.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted at DBM Website www.procurementservices.net

(Sgd.) **RUFINO B. BOMASANG**
President and CEO

(PDI--June 18, 2003)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO RE-BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites prequalified/accredited contractors to submit sealed bids for the **GENERAL SERVICES FOR BATANGAS COAL TERMINAL (BCT2002-005 R1).**

Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Operations Services Group (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro, Mr. Carlos L. Mejias or Mr. Emmanuelito A. Ababol) from June 18 to 27, 2003, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Hundred (PHP 300.00).

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This publication is also posted at DBM Website www.procurementservices.net

(Sgd.) **RUFINO B. BOMASANG**
President and CEO

(PDI--June 18, 2003)

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1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	1 SANIB	ArtFilm 1 WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	THX 1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA	2 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY	2 ANG TANGING INA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 DARKNESS FALLS 12:30, 2:30	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 SANIB	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Onstage REX RELOADED July 1 - 8:00 pm NANETTE I. W/ GARY V. July 3, 9pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FRIDA 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KO
4 ANG TANGING INA	4 THE MATRIX RELOADED		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	4 ANG TANGING INA
	5 ANG TANGING INA		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30	5 SANIB
	6 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA			
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5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPE
6 (DTS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

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1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 SANIB
4 DOLBY DIGITAL PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 BIGAY HILIG
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SANIB
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC.

tel 930.9515

1
2
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 ALAB NG LAHI
2
3 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ALAB NG LAHI
7 (DTS) SANIB
8 (SDDS) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9 (DOLBY) OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 (SDDS) SANIB
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
8 BIGAY HILIG
9 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
2 (SDDS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS) SANIB
4 (DOLBY) ANG TANGING INA
5 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 SANIB
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
5 (DOLBY) ANG TANGING INA

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Sampaquita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 SANIB

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson SANIB
Lords ALAB NG LAHI
Jennet SANIB

MARRI THAF

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 SANIB
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 SANIB

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 - 879.2029

1 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 ALAB NG LAHI

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SANIB
4 (SDDS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 OPERATION BALIKATAN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 PUTIK
2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 SANIB

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3 (DTS) SANIB
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 SANIB
3 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 SANIB
3 PANGAPAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) BIGAY HILIG
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 (DTS) OPERATION BALIKATAN
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN
5 SANIB

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 SANIB

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 SANIB
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SANIB
2 TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 BIGAY HILIG
3

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0798

1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 SO CLOSE
3 SANIB
4 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) ALAB NG LAHI
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 RING O

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DOLBY) ANG TANGING INA
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

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1 ALAB NG LAHI
2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 SANIB
6 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
7 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1 SANIB
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 BERTUD NG PUTIK
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
10 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 OPERATION BALIKATAN
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5 SANIB
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
11 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
12 DARKNESS FALLS

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 SANIB
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 OPERATION BALIKATAN
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ALAB NG LAHI
7 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8 OPERATION BALIKATAN
9 SANIB
10 ALAB NG LAHI
11 BERTUD NG PUTIK
12 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM MEGAMALL

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 SANIB
7 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8 ALAB NG LAHI
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
11 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
12 BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 SANIB
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 SANIB
7 BERTUD NG PUTIK
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM SOUTHMALL

8086888

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 SANIB
5 OPERATION BALIKATAN
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 DARKNESS FALLS
10 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 THE HOURS
2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 HIRAM
4 BIGAY HILIG
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8 DARKNESS FALLS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 SANIB
2 CLOSED
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 PAKNERS
6 RING 0
7 CLOSED
8 ANG TANGING INA

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 SO CLOSE
4 SANIB
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1 SANIB
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG TANGING INA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 SANIB
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 SANIB
3 RING 0
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 SANIB

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 ANG TANGING INA

THE PODIUM CINEMA

633-8076

1 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
11:00 MF/11:20/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

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2 HULING BIRHEN
3 MATRIX
4 THE GURU
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 ALAB NG LAHI

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2 SANIB
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 HULING BIRHEN
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 BALIKATAN
7 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Metro East -

Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 HULING BIRHEN
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 HULING BIRHEN
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Malabon

Otisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1 SANIB
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG TANGING INA

Star Mills-

San Fernando, Pamp.
(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 HULING BIRHEN
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5 SANIB
6 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

Imus

471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 ALAB NG LAHI
2 HULING BIRHEN
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 SANIB

Sta. Rosa

Laguna
(049)837-0907

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 SANIB
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 HULING BIRHEN

Bacolod

441- 0453 / 0459

1 WHAT A GIRL WANT
2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 SANIB
4 PAKNERS
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 SOUL KEEPER

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 RING 0
3 PAKNERS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 HULING BIRHEN
6 DAYO

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PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

Companies look for Mr./Ms Right

By Jajo Quintos
President and General Manager
IBM Philippines

ASK YOUR CEO

DEAR Mr. Quintos: I graduated last October of 2002 with a degree in Industrial Engineering from a well-known university. However, during my stint in college, I was very active in extracurricular activities. I joined various speech competitions (even represented the university), was editor of the student publication and represented the university in seminars. However, I am afraid that I am turning future employers off because of my track record in college. I have submitted my resume to various companies but none of them have expressed interest in employing me.

The question that has been nagging me is: are my activities in college not relevant to my Engineering degree? Most people who know me were "patting my back" and telling me that job hunting would be a breeze for me as I have impressive credentials. But this did not prove true. I applied to 16 companies simultaneously but none of them, not even one of them (all entry-level positions, with "fresh graduates are encouraged to apply" printed in their ads), responded. It is nearly a year now and I still do not have a job.

Right now, I feel so incompetent and demoralized. I am very enthusiastic to be a part of a company and utilize my skills but it seems that the industry does not want me. I would appreciate very much whatever advice you would give me. Thank you.

Deeply Troubled

Many companies are looking for the right employee but you have to stack up on motivation to find the company that will regard you as such. College graduates, unfortunately, do not come with

COMPANIES/ B0

CEO mentor Quintos

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myDream
JCB
BERNICE

Card Brand	Annual Fee	Effective Revolving Interest Rate (%)	
		Per Month	Per Annum
Brands B, C	₱1,200	3.25	39
myDream JCB	800	2.50	30
Savings with myDream JCB	₱ 400	0.75%	9%

Card Brand	12-Month Installment Interest Rate (%)		
	Add-On	Equivalent Effective Interest Rate	
		Per Month	Per Annum
Brands B, C	1.5	2.64	31.68
myDream JCB	–*	2.00	24.00
Savings with myDream JCB		0.64%	7.68%

*myDream JCB only quotes effective or true rates.

Example: P30,000 item price payable in installment over 12 months.		
Card Brand	Monthly Installment	Total Payments for 12 Months
Brands B, C	₱2,949.46	₱35,393.53
myDream JCB	2,836.79	34,041.45
Savings with myDream JCB	₱ 112.67	₱ 1,352.07

Apply for a myDream JCB card and transfer your balance now! Call 888-1818.

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The first step to understanding the root of your credit card bill nightmare is to understand the meaning of EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATES. Most, if not all, credit card companies, lure cardholders by presenting to them low nominal or "add-on" interest rates. But nominal interest rates are NOT the real rates that are charged to your purchases. The TRUE or REAL interest rates applied are the EFFECTIVE RATES. myDream JCB quotes ONLY EFFECTIVE interest rates and therefore DO NOT CHARGE ANY HIDDEN FEES!

To better understand these terminology as well as the value-added features of **myDream JCB**, look over the following frequently asked questions.

Q: What is the difference between nominal interest rate and effective interest rate?

A: Nominal interest rate is also called "add-on rate." This is the rate that is applied on the original item price monthly to arrive at the monthly interest amount. The monthly interest amount is then multiplied by the term (i.e., the number of months the item is to be paid on installment) to arrive at the total amount of interest for the whole term. The nominal or add-on rate does not express the real interest rate.

Effective interest rate, on the other hand, computes interest based on the diminishing balance of the item purchased. Thus, the effective interest rate reflects the "true" or "real" rate charged to your transaction. Because **myDream JCB** only quotes effective interest rates, the cardholder is assured that he is not being asked to pay for any charges that are hidden behind seemingly low add-on rates.

Q: How much can I save using myDream JCB Card if I purchase on installment?

A: In these times of economic difficulties, getting more value for your money is a primary concern of every cardholder. With **myDream JCB's** very affordable annual fee and very low interest rates, you actually pay less for your purchases than what you would normally pay using other credit card brands. See how much savings you stand to enjoy with **myDream JCB** as compared to other credit card brands when you make purchases in installment:

Card Brand	12-Month Installment Interest Rate (%)		
	Add-on	Equivalent Effective Interest Rate	
		Per month	Per Annum
Brands B, C	1.5	2.64	31.68
myDream JCB	*	2.00	24.00
Savings with myDream JCB		0.64%	7.68%

* *myDream JCB only quotes effective or true rates.*

Example: P30,000 item price payable in installment over 12 months		
Card Brand	Monthly Installment	Total Payments for 12 Months
Brands B, C	P2,949.46	P33,393.53
myDream JCB	2,836.79	34,041.45
Savings with myDream JCB	P 112.67	P 1,352.07

Q: How much is the annual fee of myDream JCB? What about regular revolving interest rate? How much can one save using myDream JCB?

A: myDream JCB cardholders are able to save considerably on the cost of maintaining a credit card since their annual fee of P800 is the LOWEST among all international card brands. Additionally, **myDream JCB** offers the LOWEST effective revolving interest rate of 2.5% per month. See table below:

Card Brand	Annual Fee	Effective Revolving Interest Rate (%)	
		Per Month	Per Annum
Brands B, C	P1,200	3.25	39
myDream JCB	800	2.50	30
Savings with myDream JCB	P 400	0.75%	9%

Q: What are the other perks and privileges of myDream JCB?

A: In addition to affordable annual fee, low effective monthly revolving interest rate and low effective monthly installment rate, **myDream JCB's** other features include:

- A balance conversion feature that allows you to convert their retail purchases to installment just by calling 888-1818
- Flexible Pay-Easy-Plan which lets you pay a monthly minimum of 5% of your outstanding balance or P500, whichever is higher
- International and local recognition and acceptability
- Swift and easy access to a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week **myDream JCB** Customer Hotline at 888-1818
- Vast payment network via all branches of RCBC, RCBC Savings Bank, Metrobank, Union Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, Banco de Oro, SM Bills Payment Counters, and major BancNet ATMs

The easy-to-pay, low-interest dream-come-true myDream JCB Card is truly a breakthrough product that promises to meet the needs of present-day cardholders and change the way they perceive credit card ownership. Reward yourself with instant savings on your credit card bills, switch to **myDream JCB Card** today.

ADVT.

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Who says Father's Day has to end in 24 hours? Not us. This week, we honor our favorite man with a special issue. We've got young people telling us what makes their dads super. We've got tips on making your dad feel No. 1. We've got heartfelt letters and favorite moments. We also have features on the giant musical event Fete de la Musique (hey, you can bring dad along). Because it's Father's Week in 2bU!

onstage 2nyt

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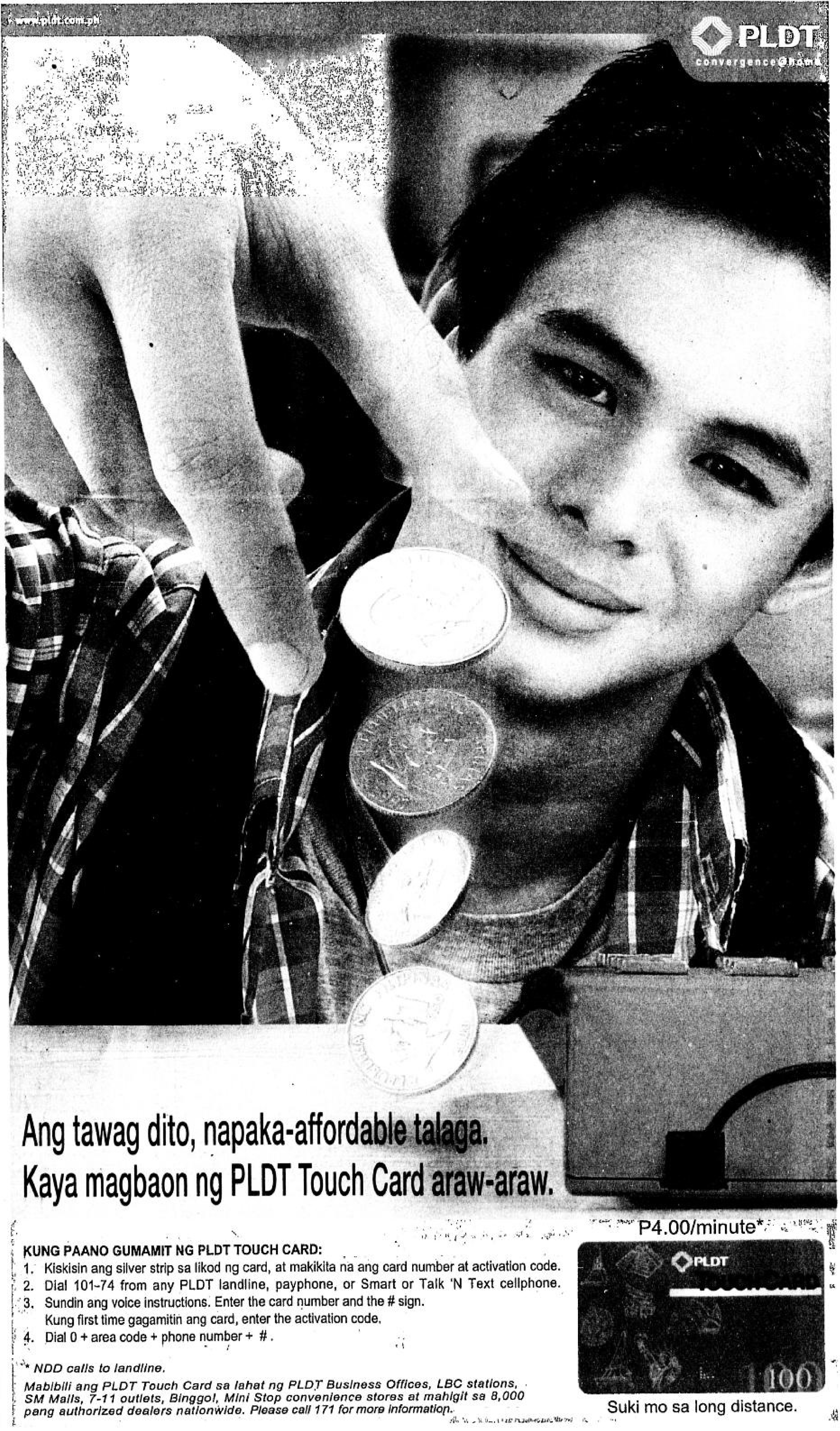
JUNE 18 WEDNESDAY 422-9877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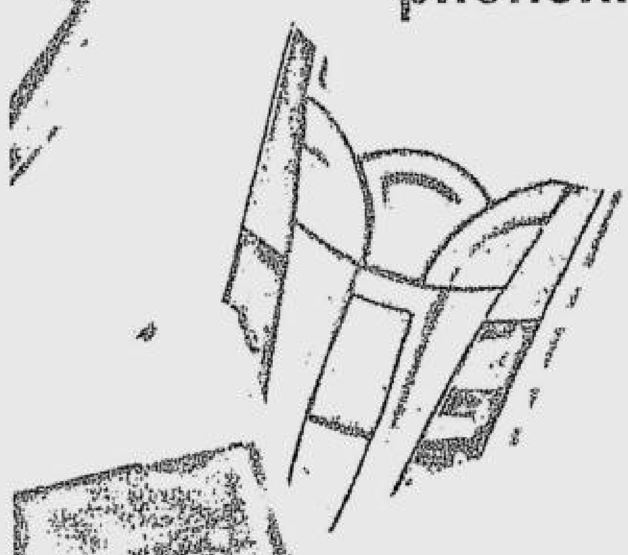

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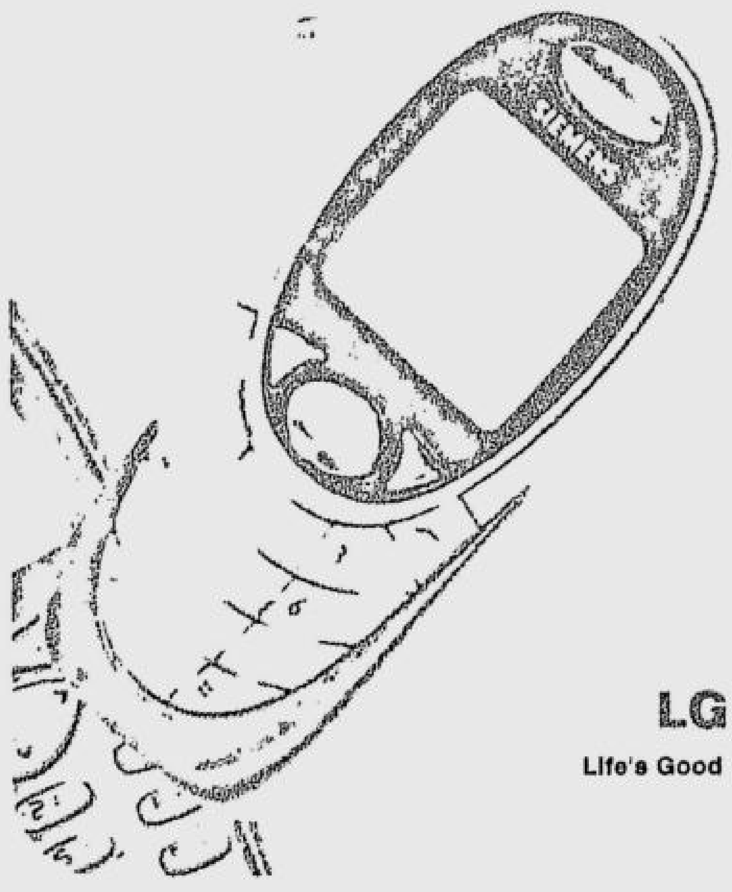

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Nokia 3510	3,990	1,900	
Nokia 3530	6,990	3,500	
Nokia 3650	24,890	17,600	8,9
Nokia 6610	20,190	14,750	4,2
Nokia 6800	21,490	17,750	8,9
Nokia 6100	22,390	17,750	13,9
Nokia 7250	22,390	19,750	12,4
Sony Ericsson T100	5,090	750	
Sony Ericsson T310	9,290	7,250	
Sony Ericsson T600	6,490	5,500	3,0
Sony Ericsson T610	24,990	19,000	16,0
Sony Ericsson P800	34,390	31,500	24,4
Panasonic GD55	6,690	3,250	1,6
Panasonic GD88	23,890	19,000	8,7
Siemens A50	3,390	1,000	
Siemens C55	6,590	6,250	4,6
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		14,750	4,250	[illegible]	[illegible]
		16,150	6,400	[illegible]	[illegible]
		17,400	5,900	[illegible]	[illegible]
4,400		18,150	8,400	[illegible]	[illegible]
			[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		6,400	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		4,500	2,750	[illegible]	
12,500	8,000	17,000	13,000	10,500	6,000
17,400		29,900	20,400	11,400	
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		150			
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9,400	[illegible]	11,400	9,150	7,150	[illegible]
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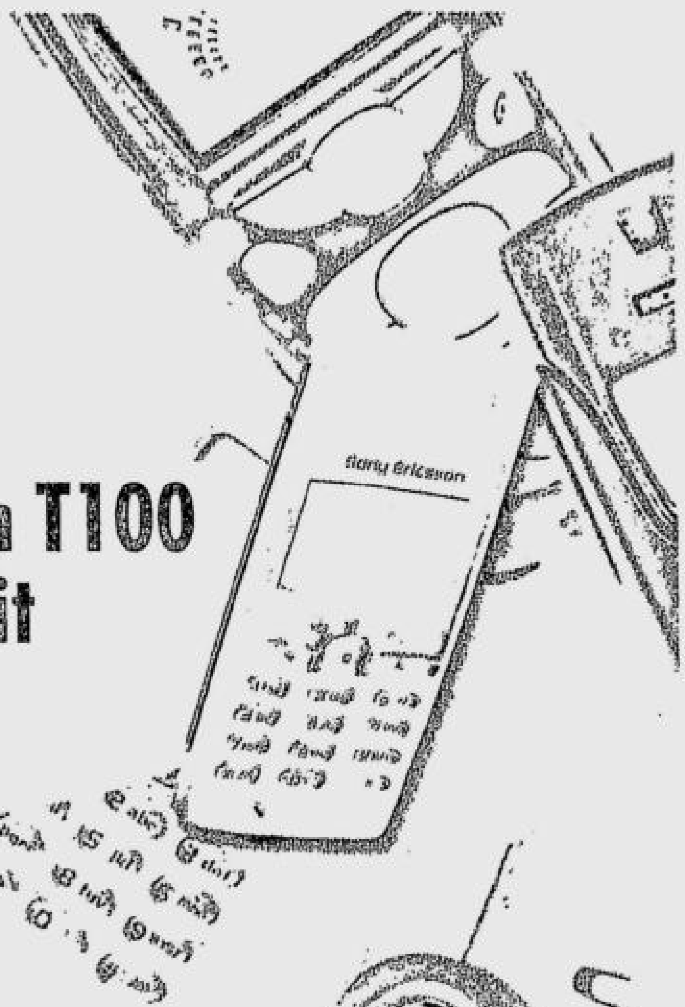

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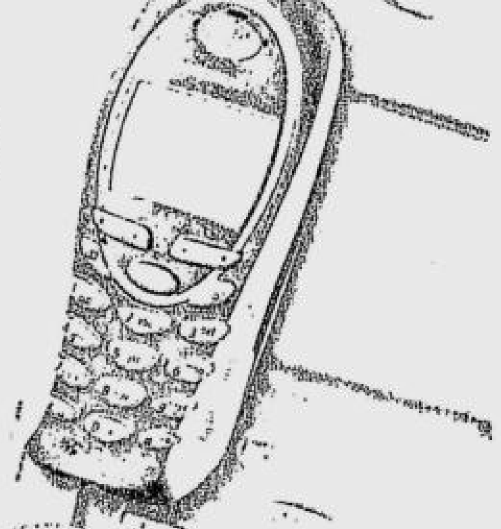

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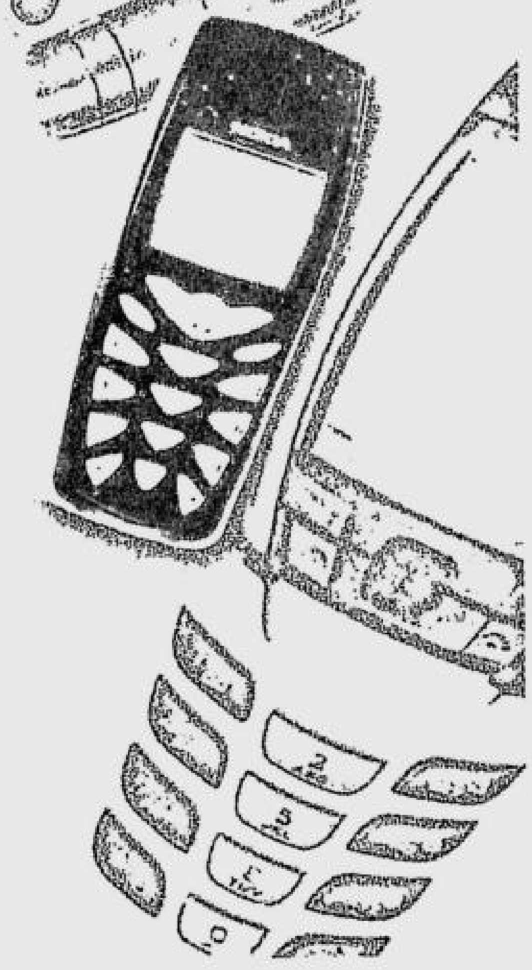

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Everything Important is Under the Sun

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2520 Series of 200

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Getting even with Dad

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

JUST like the other special people in our lives, our fathers deserve to hear, know and feel how much we love them.

In a world which teems with songs like "Gone Too Soon" and "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," it is but advisable for each one of us to cherish the present and nurture our relationship with our fathers. It may sound grim, but we never really know when Dad is going to make his departure from the world.

Here are some reminders on how to make the most out of your relationship with Dad while you're still together.

Talk and listen

Fathers are laconic. Don't let this stop you from actually having a meaningful conversation with Dad. Don't be afraid to ask serious or emotional questions. Don't be afraid to joke around. To those who have ceased to exchange even a word with their fathers, swallow your pride. A simple greeting wouldn't hurt your ego too much.

And don't forget to listen. Even if he doesn't make sense or he loves retelling you one of his boring conquests. You may be one of the few souls he feels comfortable sharing with. Consider that an honor.

Obey

Be a dutiful child and prove how you respect and treasure your father's decisions and suggestions.

Sometimes, we turn out to be so self-absorbed that we disappoint our fathers even if in reality, the favors that they ask from us are really little and easy to accomplish.

Volunteer

There are many moments when we simply can't expect fathers to initiate conversations or get-togethers. Don't wait any longer. Chat with him. Invite him out to some much-needed father-and-child bonding session, your treat. Offer him whatever you think he wants, needs or deserves. A drink, a head massage, a hand in whatever endeavor he's in. Doing something for your father, without him begging you to do so will always be appreciated.

He has done so much for you. You may as well show him affection and gratitude

Bond

When was the last time you both did something that you really enjoyed doing together? Back when you were 3 years old? It could be as simple as watching a boxing match or as grand as fishing. Whatever it is, make sure you do it on a regular basis. It will surely make the communication lines more open and bring you closer to one another. It can even mean a raise in your allowance.

Serve

Be of service to your dad. One of the best ways to do this is by giving back what he has selflessly given you when you were growing up. Once financially stable, gift your dad with his favorites or regularly give him a portion of your earnings. If you believe that you're still not capable of doing that, at least free your dad of financial worries by depending on your own income. Pamper him the way he pampered you. Make sure that the rest of his life will be happy and worry-free. He made sure that yours would turn out to be so.

Don't send him away or hire a maid to take care of him. Nothing compares to what you can give him. After all, he gave everything to you in his own way, and you know this is incomparable and unparalleled.

Bonding with Dad

By Ivy S. Papa
2bUI Correspondent

SONORA Dodd certainly had the right idea when she campaigned for the third Sunday of June to be officially declared as Father's Day. Fathers just don't seem to get as much appreciation as mothers do. In fact, according to statistics, Father's Day isn't anywhere near Mother's Day when it comes to commercial sales. Perhaps it's because it's much harder to shop for men than for women.

Or it could be that, according to stereotype, females are more sentimental than males, the latter being more practical and not excited about receiving cute little trifles.

But notwithstanding generalizations about gender, we children still need to show more our appreciation of Dad.

Of course, there are the old standby presents for him, but I think sooner or later, Dad will run out of space for the neckties, pens and pencil sets we usually give him. Sure it's the thought that counts, but how about putting more thought into making Dad feel extra-special?

I believe a strong relationship with him, fostered by numerous wonderful moments throughout the years is just the right thing that will keep Dad's twilight years cheery.

It's usually the parents' preoccupation to think of ways to bond with their kids, but now that the kids are older, the situation is reversed. It is now our turn to start consciously making time for our parents, avoiding at all costs the "Cat's in the Cradle" scenario.

Happily though, there are simple but just as special ways of strengthening our attachment to our father. Here are ideas:

If Father already has a sport, maybe we could make it our interest, too. If he doesn't, we could suggest one, perhaps on the pretext of trimming down his waistline (ouch!). It's nice to see parents and children having regular pingpong matches or running laps together.

If neither Dad nor we are athletic, maybe we could seriously get into board games instead. We could bring chess, Scrabble or Trivial Pursuit into the next level, so we'll have a long-running battle, real hardcore stuff with defending champions, challengers and loser-buys-pizza deals.

The best gift to show your appreciation of Dad is companionship

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Nostalgia

We could also ride on his nostalgia for the oldies. Not only will our knowledge of past decades' music improve (we'll never know when such information will come in handy), we'll also get to share something from our father's youth. We can do karaoke or attend oldies specials in bistros or cafés.

How about helping him out in his hobby? If gardening is his pastime, we could help him out in weeding or applying natural fertilizer in the garden.

If he's a collector of something, we could assist him in organizing his collection or hunting down rare items in flea markets or garage sales.

Even watching television can be a time for connecting. If Dad is a Discovery Channel buff, we could park ourselves in front of the TV with him and learn about different cultures and, well, discoveries. Afterward, we can make our own comments and hold an intelligent discussion about what we've just watched.

Tuning into the daily primetime news can also be made into a tradition. We can comment on whatever was reported and pretend to be political analysts.

Basketball cheer

But I suppose the surefire bet that will promote bonding before the boob tube would be the PBA. It would be nice if we could support the same team as Dad. We could watch the finals with refreshments to last several hours and hook the TV to the stereo for a better audio system.

We could also find out the things that he can't share with Mom, like an extreme sport or a really tacky activity. It can be as minor as going on the scarier rides in amusement parks or restoring old vinyl records. It would give him the chance to try something that he has always wanted to do but hasn't because he has nobody to do it with.

We could invite Dad to join us in a project. We can even make sure it would be something he'd be interested in, like tracing our genealogy and making a family tree. The time we'll spend working on this project together would be invaluable and we'll have a feeling of shared triumph when the project is done.

It would also be nice to have those quirky habits that are peculiar to Dad and us since we're the only ones who get it. It could be silly knock-knock jokes or car games, or flashing a peace sign whenever we see a VW minibus.

Essentially, nothing can beat those precious moments when we get to build up our relationship with our parents. They mean more than any pricey gift. Material gifts are also good, but nothing beats companionship and sharing.

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Per DTI-NCR permit no 1539. Series of 2003.

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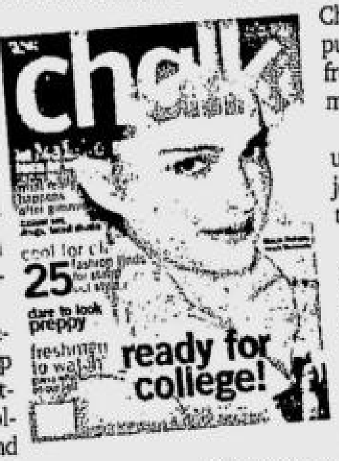
Read up on how to prepare for the move to college

IF you feel like your personality needs improvement now that you're moving from high school to college, grab the latest issue of Chalk, the leading college magazine in the country.

Chalk comes with a college freshman manual to help those making the transition from high school to college. Take your pick from among stylish bags, psychedelic-washed flats, and wrist-hugging candy-colored watches, perfect for an outdoorsy preppy look. Pretty young star Cheska Garcia helps you choose the ideal denim pair.



Now that summer is over, replenish lost moisture. Flip through pages on hair treatments, body butters, and colored lip moisturizers and find what's best for your needs. The hottest hair accessories to match your outfits are also in the list!

For those who are already thinking about graduation photos, Chalk offers a list of dos and don'ts to achieve the right look for posterity. Find out how you can get a free makeover from The Body Shop.

The magazine has also drawn up a checklist of what a high school senior should expect on his/her first year in college. It also gives suggestions on choosing what organization to join.

For those who'll be staying in dormitories, Chalk shows how to make your campus living quarters your home away from home for you and your roommate.

Learn from young people who used their free time for a part-time job or other money-making ventures.

A tell-all feature on teenagers' nightouts talks about casual sex, drinking and driving, drugs, drag racing and catfights.

Cover of this month's issue is the newest Kamiseta girl, Natalie Portman. VJ Lucky Manzano is guesting this month as a CD reviewer. The 2003 college freshmen to watch, coming from different high schools, are listed in Chalk's ID 2003.

Chalk's June issue is available at all National Bookstore branches, CA Communication outlets, and leading magazine stands. Call 924-4104 or 415-2272 to subscribe.

Magazine has right gear for cool school year

PINK Magazine, a girl's guide to shopping, shows you the right attitude and the perfect gear to make this school year a cool one.

It celebrates new beginnings with the big fashion issue—50 pages of the hottest trends this season. Snag some star style in our Copycat Brat Special: Girls Who Rock! Find out what you should have in your closet to shine like Jennifer Lopez, Eve, Shirley Manson and The Dixie Chicks.

Pink
The Big Fashion Issue
50
School's Cool!
KC Concepcion

Pink takes you to Hollywood High, where Saga's hot young designers Lotho, RCXY Bautista, Charmaine Palermo and Ronald Pasion turn to classic teen movies to give you some weekend outfit ideas. Steal the fun style of the "Clueless" gang, or take on the glamorous look of "Cruel Intentions."

The magazine goes back to black and white and shows that basic is never boring. It also goes light, showcasing delightful pastels and prints in light fabrics.

Pink columnist Hindy Tantoco writes about a journey of "Two in the Rain," where old world charm meets modern day style for a truly dazzling combination.

For more tips on surviving the school year, read what cover girl KC Concepcion, who just turned 18, says about four years in high school, balancing school work and extracurricular activities.

Other features are this season's must-haves: Oriental-inspired items, funky punk duds, *kikay* kit essentials, cute miniskirts and comfortable loafers. There are also tips on how to sport a tan using the latest bronzing products.

Not a bird, not a plane but super, too—our dads

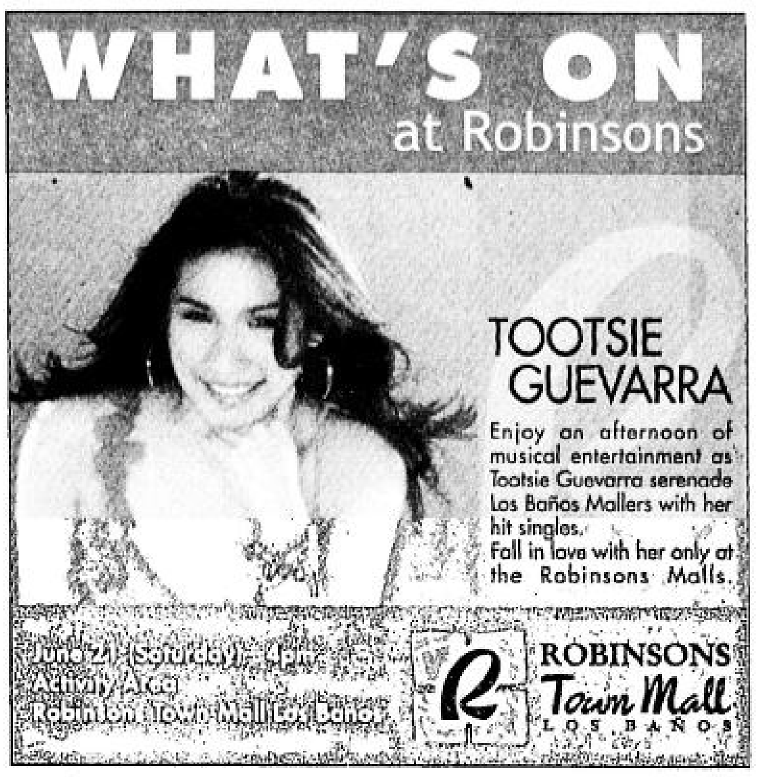
By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

OUR dads may not be as cute as Dean Cain, but they're super nonetheless. Capes and pentagons with a large letter S in the middle pale in comparison to our dad's authoritative voice, no-fail advice and ability to double our allowance! There are several other reasons our dads deserve thunderous applause.

He's my mom, too. As a single parent, he sends my brother and me to school and makes sure we have all we need. He juggles work and his responsibility as a single parent quite well.—**Anne Katrine, 15, misses her mom**

He doesn't earn much, but he never fails to give me and my siblings what we need, even

NOT A BIRD/ D3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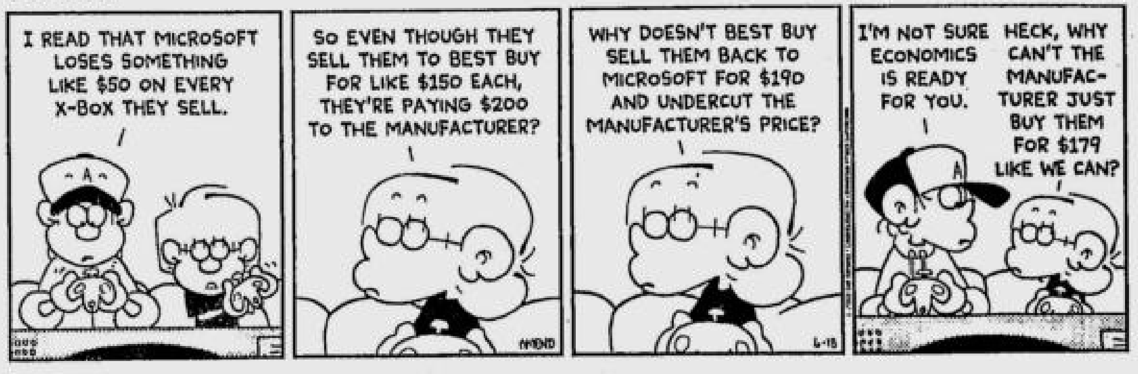
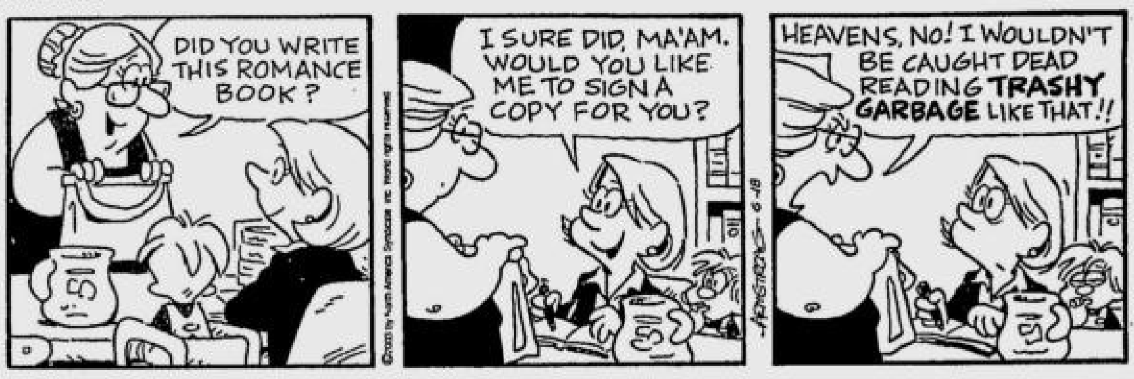
BY BILL AMEND


I READ THAT MICROSOFT LOSES SOMETHING LIKE $50 ON EVERY X-BOX THEY SELL.
SO EVEN THOUGH THEY SELL THEM TO BEST BUY FOR LIKE $150 EACH, THEY'RE PAYING $200 TO THE MANUFACTURER?
WHY DOESN'T BEST BUY SELL THEM BACK TO MICROSOFT FOR $190 AND UNDERCUT THE MANUFACTURER'S PRICE?
I'M NOT SURE ECONOMICS IS READY FOR YOU.
HECK, WHY CAN'T THE MANUFACTURER JUST BUY THEM FOR $179 LIKE WE CAN?
AMEND
6-18

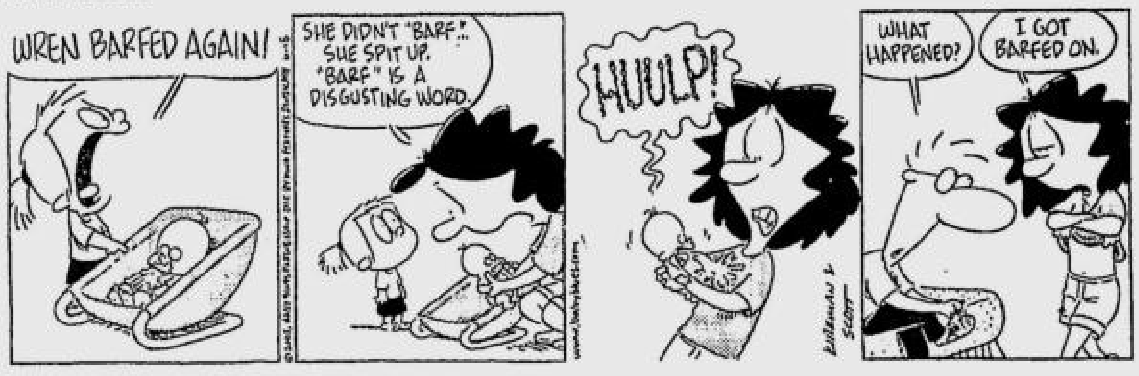
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DID YOU WRITE THIS ROMANCE BOOK?
I SURE DID, MA'AM. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SIGN A COPY FOR YOU?
HEAVENS, NO! I WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD READING TRASHY GARBAGE LIKE THAT!!
ARMSTRONG 6-18

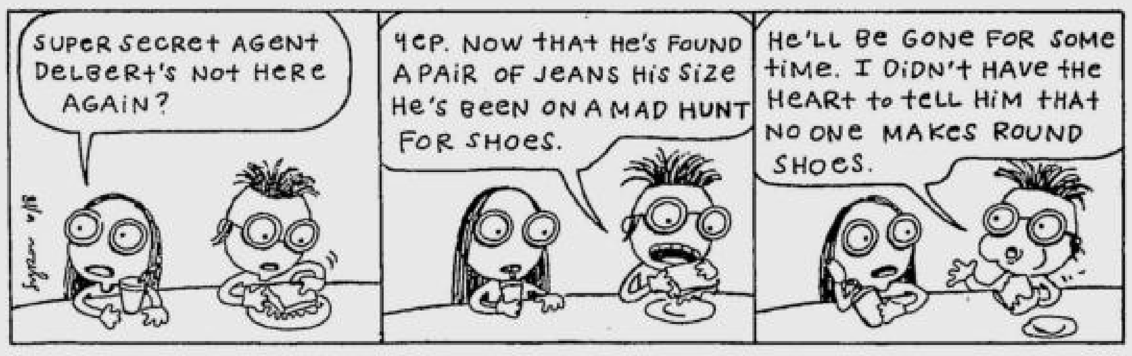
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WREN BARFED AGAIN!
SHE DIDN'T "BARF." SHE SPIT UP. "BARF" IS A DISGUSTING WORD.
HUULP!
WHAT HAPPENED?
I GOT BARFED ON.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Super Secret Agent Delbert's Not Here Again?
Yep. Now that He's Found A Pair of Jeans His Size He's Been on A Mad Hunt For Shoes.
He'll Be Gone For Some time. I Didn't Have the Heart to tell Him that No one Makes Round Shoes.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You are intelligent and shrewd. In addition to having these qualities for success, you are also patient. You are willing to pay your dues to learn something before you start. You know how to invest in your future. Be prepared to say goodbye to some things to create room for new things to enter your life next year.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to be aware of subconscious habit patterns from your past that no longer serve you. Old reactions might not be appropriate to how you live now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Get together with friends and groups for sports or physical activity. You feel unusually competitive now and have a lot of energy to burn!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ambition is definitely aroused. Build on this energy by going after whatever you want. This is a lucky time for you, with the Sun, Mercury and Venus in your sign.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): By nature, you enjoy your home and are more inclined to travel for work than pleasure. Nevertheless, you need to do something to get a change of scenery now. You want to go somewhere!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Yours is a romantic sign. Starting today and for the next few weeks, your passionate nature is aroused. Don't be afraid to wink at someone you find attractive -- even if this person is your spouse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A partner or close friend might feel competitive with you now. Because you're unusually powerful at this time, some people might feel threatened. Be patient with them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're ready to work hard to improve your environment, both at work and at home. This is a good idea, because you are very affected by your surroundings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Many astrology books talk about how secretive and intense you are. However, few refer to your playful nature. For the next several weeks (starting today), you want to have fun!

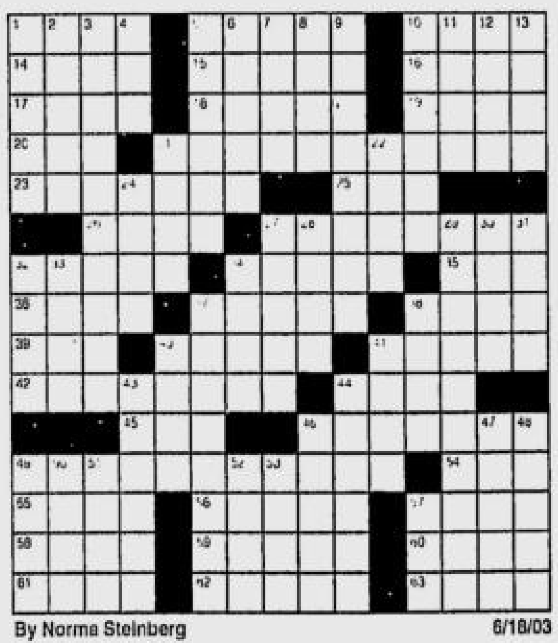
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Tension or chaos at home due to moving or renovations could create problems. This simply means you have to be more patient and understanding with everyone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The stars are powerfully positioned for your sign now. Not only do you want to work hard to make gains, but your communicating style and your ability to persuade and influence others are fabulous now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're getting ready to spend some money. You see now that money is energy, and it has to be used to be useful.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's important to get increased physical exercise now. Fiery Mars has just moved into your sign, making you aggressive and unusually assertive.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

6/18/03

ACROSS
1 Social standing
5 Gala celebrations
10 Spoken
14 Jai __
15 Put forth effort
16 Composer Bartok
17 Brad of "Seven"
18 Judgments
19 City near Santa Fe
20 Here in Le Havre
21 Gaea
23 Swallows
25 Light starter?
26 "Lohengrin" lady
27 Magnificent
32 Selling point
34 Bob and Elizabeth
35 Numero __
36 Beat it!
37 Fathered
38 Mil. rank
39 Luau dish
40 Soap or horse follower
41 Muffles
42 Indulgent sorrow
44 Cake layer
45 Sculling pole
46 Official rebuke
49 Smear tactic
54 Govt. agcy. (1934-65)
55 Hall-of-Famer Slaughter
56 __ Haute, IN
57 Corp. bigwigs
58 California valley
59 Upright
60 Antique shop's affectation
61 Lipinski jump
62 Venetian honchos
63 Ring out

DOWN
1 Quick
2 Carroll's heroine
3 Homeland
4 Western scout Carson
5 Rakish hat
6 Cloverleaf ramps
7 Part of M.I.T.
8 Art Deco designer
9 Taken aback
10 Get
11 Hind part
12 Oodles
13 Whip stroke
21 Has to
22 Rams' mates
24 Butter sub
27 __ 'bout that
28 Entreaty
29 Skirt on a bed
30 "Bus Stop" dramatist
31 Periods
32 Small snakes
33 Oxford or pump
34 Menu plan
37 Plucky
38 Brings to court
40 October birthstone
41 "Merciless" foe
43 Archaeological find
44 Basic beliefs
46 Homer's enchantress
47 Valerie Harper role
48 Painter's stand
49 Tableland
50 Trademark DOS
51 Rotunda feature
52 Rex Stout's Wolfe
53 Olympic diver Louganis
57 NYPD member

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

F	O	G	S		L	O	W	E		A	N	G	E	R
A	B	L	E		E	A	R	S		L	E	A	S	E
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E	N	S	O	R		O	F	F	S		T	E	N	S

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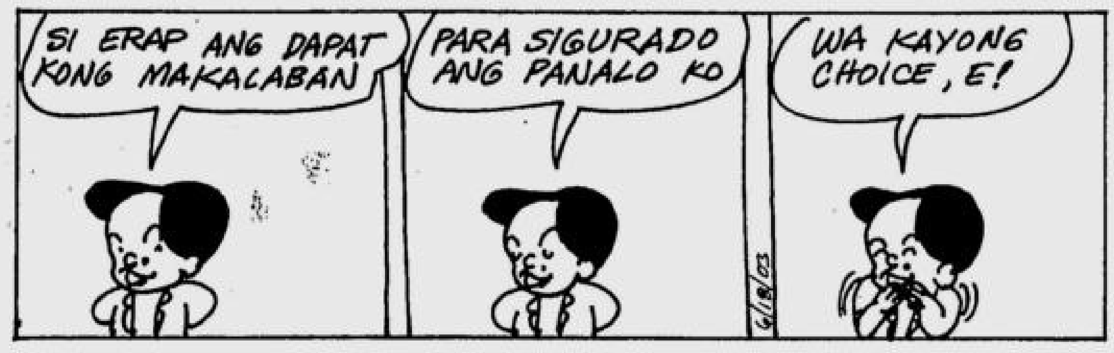
6/18/03

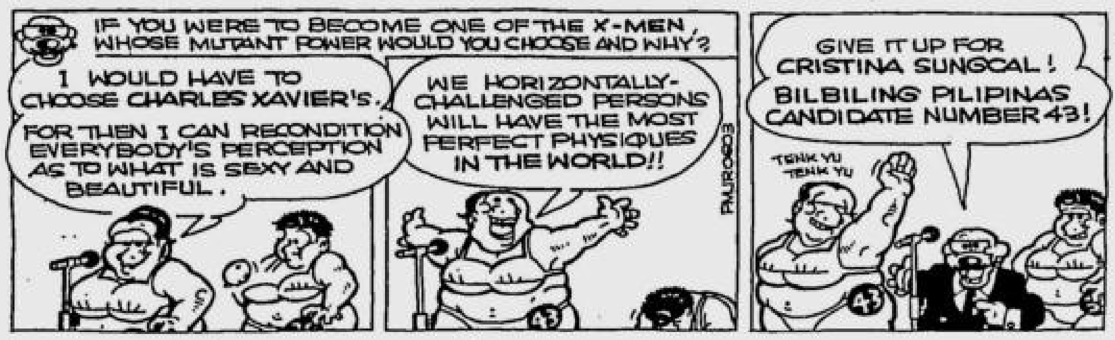
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SI ERAP ANG DAPAT KONG MAKALABAN
PARA SIGURADO ANG PANALO KO
WA KAYONG CHOICE, E!
6/18/03

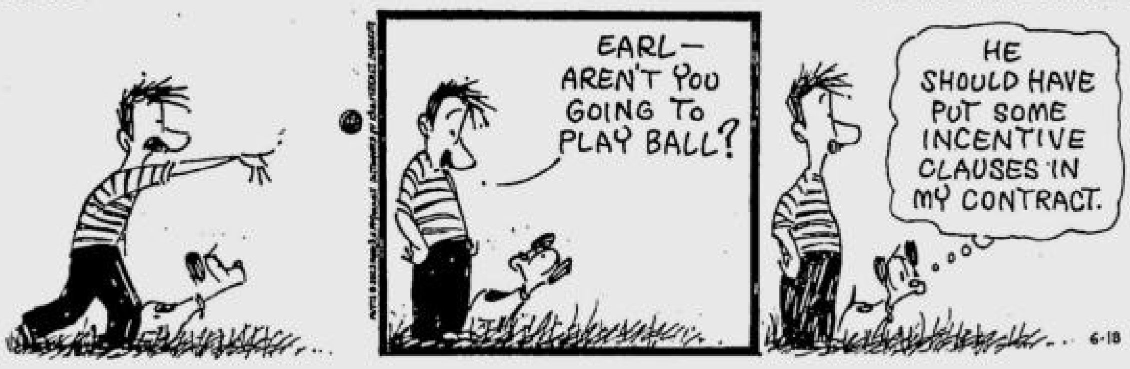
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IF YOU WERE TO BECOME ONE OF THE X-MEN, WHOSE MUTANT POWER WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?
I WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE CHARLES XAVIER'S.
FOR THEN I CAN RECONDITION EVERYBODY'S PERCEPTION AS TO WHAT IS SEXY AND BEAUTIFUL.
WE HORIZONTALLY-CHALLENGED PERSONS WILL HAVE THE MOST PERFECT PHYSIQUES IN THE WORLD!!
PMJR0603
GIVE IT UP FOR CRISTINA SUNGCAL! BILBILING PILIPINAS CANDIDATE NUMBER 43!
TENK YU TENK YU
43

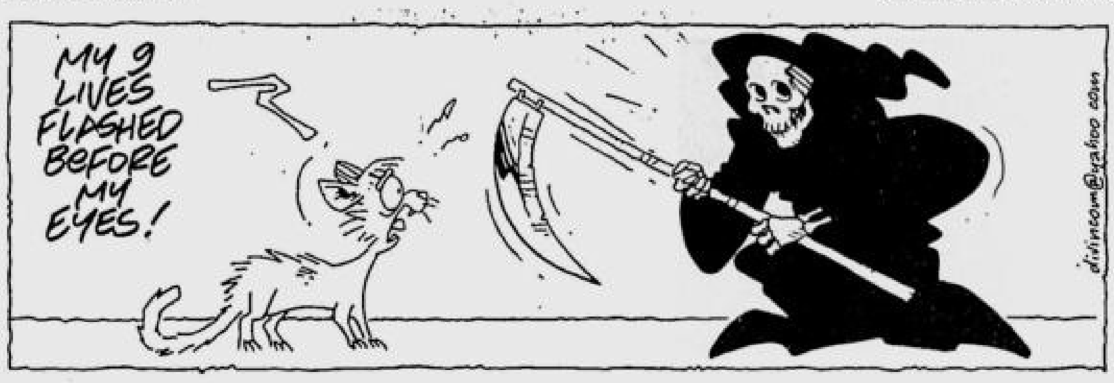
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL— AREN'T YOU GOING TO PLAY BALL?
HE SHOULD HAVE PUT SOME INCENTIVE CLAUSES IN MY CONTRACT.
6-18

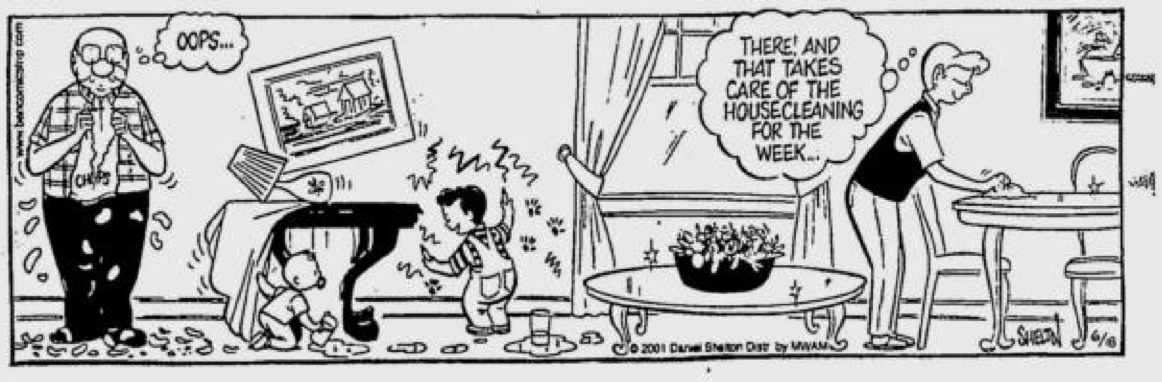
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MY 9 LIVES FLASHED BEFORE MY EYES!
divincom@yahoo.com

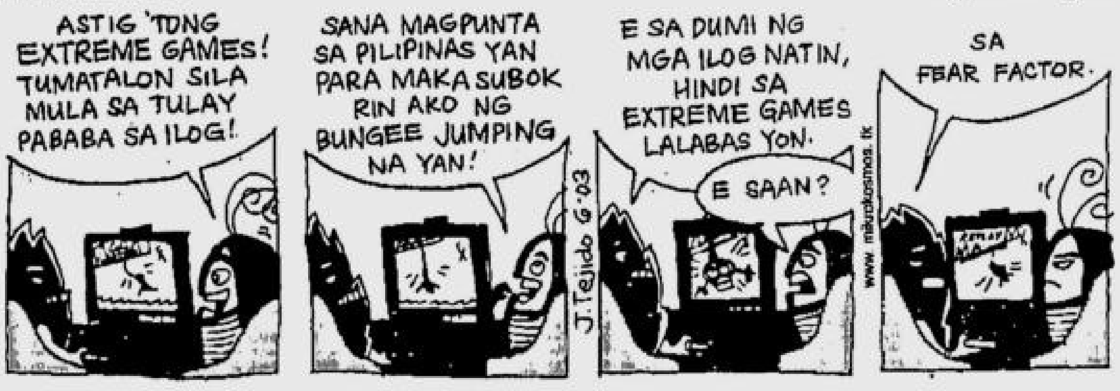
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OOPS...
THERE! AND THAT TAKES CARE OF THE HOUSECLEANING FOR THE WEEK...
CHIPS
www.bencomicstrip.com
© 2001 Daniel Shelton Distr. by MWAM
SHELTON 6/18

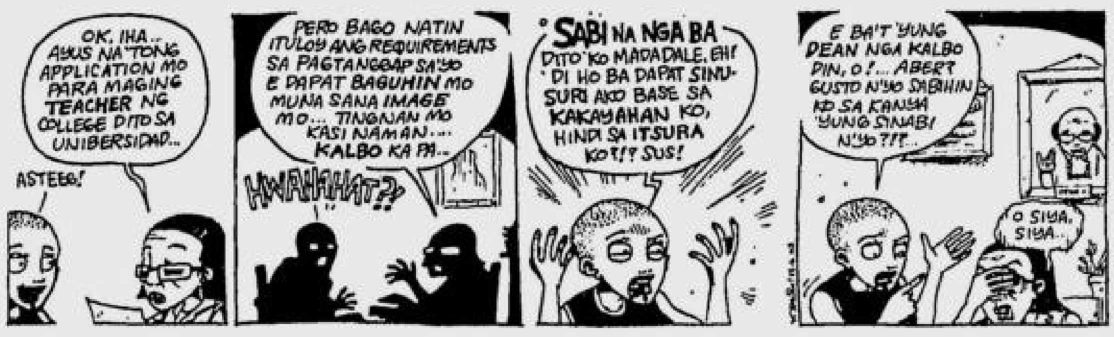
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ASTIG 'TONG EXTREME GAMES! TUMATALON SILA MULA SA TULAY PABABA SA ILOG!
SANA MAGPUNTA SA PILIPINAS YAN PARA MAKA SUBOK RIN AKO NG BUNGEE JUMPING NA YAN!
J. Tejido 6'03
E SA DUMI NG MGA ILOG NATIN, HINDI SA EXTREME GAMES LALABAS YON.
E SAAN?
www.mikrokosmos.tk
SA FEAR FACTOR.

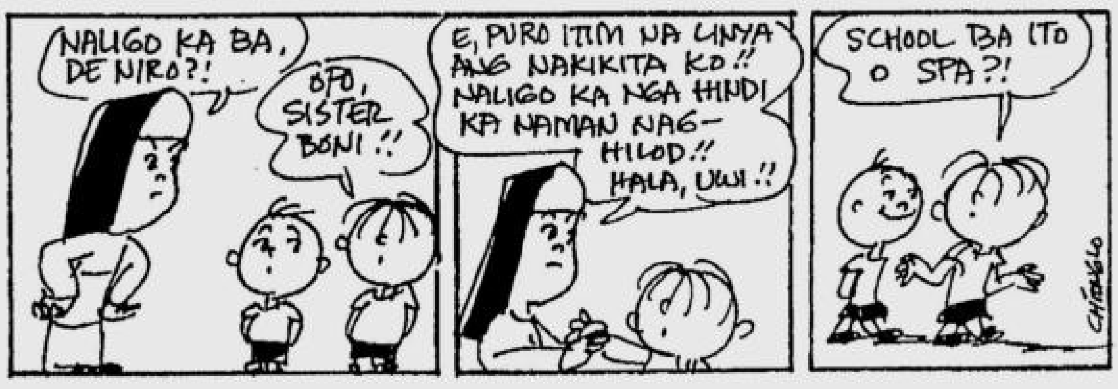
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


OK, IHA... AYOS NA 'TONG APPLICATION MO PARA MAGING TEACHER NG COLLEGE DITO SA UNIBERSIDAD...
ASTEEG!
PERO BAGO NATIN ITULOY ANG REQUIREMENTS SA PAGTANGGAP SA'YO E DAPAT BAGUHIN MO MUNA SANA IMAGE MO... TINGNAN MO KASI NAMAN.... KALBO KA PA...
HWAHHHAT?!
SABI NA NGA BA DITO KO MADADALE. EH! 'DI HO BA DAPAT SINUSURI AKO BASE SA KAKAYAHAN KO, HINDI SA ITSURA KO?!? SUS!
E BA'T 'YUNG DEAN NGA KALBO DIN, O!... ABERT GUSTO N'YO SABIHIN KO SA KANYA 'YUNG SINABI N'YO?!?
O SIYA, SIYA...

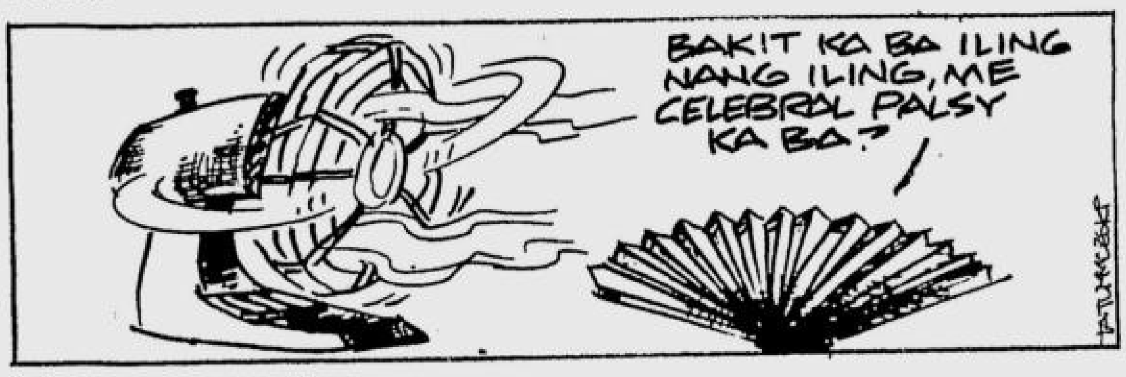
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NALIGO KA BA, DE NIRO?!
OPO, SISTER BONI!!
E, PURO ITIM NA LINYA ANG NAKIKITA KO!! NALIGO KA NGA HINDI KA NAMAN NAG-HILOD!! HALA, UWI!!
SCHOOL BA ITO O SPA?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT KA BA ILING NANG ILING, ME CELEBRAL PALSY KA BA?

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

2bU! gives some reasons Superman can't hold a candle to dads

Not a bird, not a plane but super, too—our dads

From page D1

those that we want but don't really need.—**Kuto Maki, 17, wants sushi**

My granduncle Doods is super because he's not really my dad but he acted like a dad to me, making sure I'd turn out to be a great man.—**Niño, 22, at present a great man**

My father might seem really detached but [I've realized] he just wanted me to be an adult by making mistakes and correcting them myself. Of course, I know he's just there to help me when I can't do it alone.—**Emily, 24, adult-like**

My dad is a superdad because he's been separated from my mom for more than 10 years now, and he's focusing on being a father to my siblings and me. I know he kinda needs another woman in his life right now, but his being a full-time father makes him more super.—**Christianne, 19, full-time son**

The fact that we're like *barkada*. He's more of a friend to me than a father. *Parang* older friend who gives really good advice.—**Omar Pol, 22, almost became a father last year**

He supports my decisions and my interests no matter how weird.—**Andrea Louise, 18, thankful her dad didn't approve her plan to get a cheesy tattoo on her ankle**

He can stand a superbrat like me.—**Emile, 22, takes pride in being superbrat**

He enrolled me in ballet and piano classes when I was young, and I'm very grateful for that.—**Bea, 18, doesn't know what a *pianono* is**

He picks me up when I go out, even if *hindi ako nagpapa-alam*.—**Danielle, 19, now asks for permission**

My dad's super because he always makes me sing during family reunions even if I am really shy. I realize he has always been proud of me and that he believes in my talent.—**Eleanor, 16, still shy**

Inaaway niya dati yung mga nang-aaway sa'kin. Tapos pinapagalitan niya'ko. Dapat daw matuto akong lumaban.—**Edward, 23, likes Christina Aguilera's "Fight" video**

Even if he's already dead, I know he continues to take care of me.—**Keewich, 24, who has goose bumps**

But not everyone has nice things to say about dad.

My father is super irresponsible. He left my mother with six perpetually hungry kids and never appeared ever again *kahit pa nung namatay na yung nanay ko*.—**Niña, 23, enjoyed watching "Tanging Ina"**

Favorite moments with DAD

From page D0

pus, and this memory of my dad always returns during those times. He was always my walking buddy.— **Peachy Paderna, 19, Ateneo de Manila University**

When I was 12, my dad took me and my sisters to see this beautiful lake in Bicol. He was very excited to bring us to the spot. Unfortunately, I didn't share his excitement. I was silently protesting walking around the lake for two hours. I didn't appreciate what he was trying to do at that time, but years later I would recall that afternoon at the lake and feel loved.—**Lia Romualdo, 20, UA&P**

Whenever my dad would go on a business trip, he would always downgrade his business-class ticket so he can bring the whole family along. He's been like that since I was born. He makes us the number one priority.—**Kay Yu, 21, AdMU**

Those times when he and I would jam as we listened to rock and roll songs.—**Gabby de Vera, 20, AdMU**

Rooting for the New Jersey Nets together in the NBA (National Basketball Association) Finals.—**Katrina Marcelo, 21, University of the Philippines**

When I was about 4 years old, my dad would put me at the back of his bike and go around the neighborhood. I feel comforted remembering those days.—**Carmen Reyes, 19, University of Santo Tomas**

My favorite memory of my dad happened this summer, when he taught me how to drive. We would go around the village and just talk about girls, basketball and anything under the sun.—**Joel, 18, UP**

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

When I was in kindergarten, my dad would take me to school every day and fetch me afterwards, falling in line patiently with all the *yayas* and drivers despite the heat. Every day, seeing my dad's twinkling eyes as he walked toward me, completed my day. This is his favorite memory, too. It's funny, my dad and I are so alike—I'm his junior!—**Cheryl Tiu, 19, AdMU, 2bU! correspondent**

When my heart was broken for the first time, my Papa consoled me in a quiet, loving way. He knew I didn't want to talk about it, so he asked me to go for a walk. We took a one-hour stroll in the village. Although he didn't say a word, his strong, supportive presence was just what I needed.—**Sandra, 21**

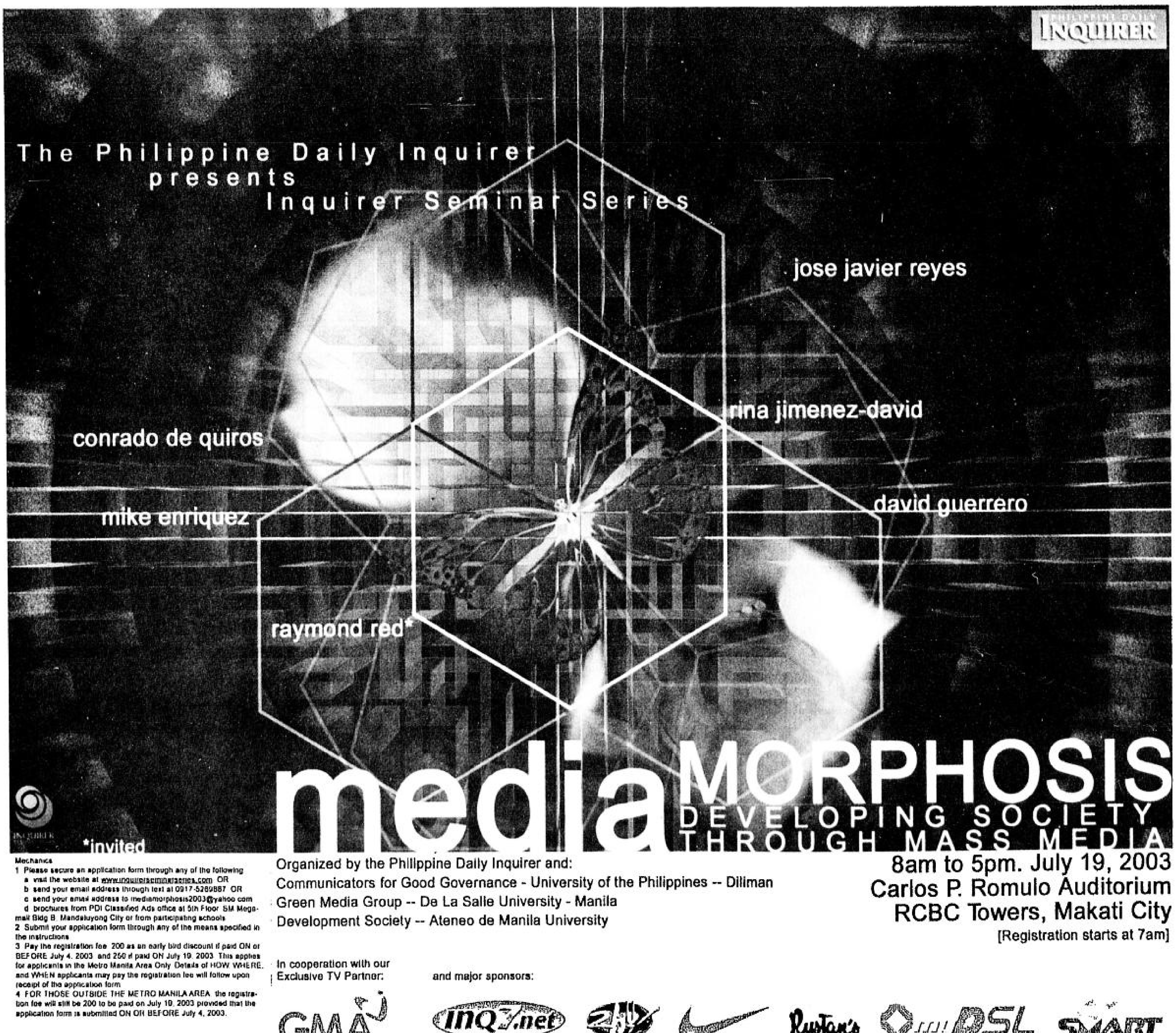
When I was 10 years old, I remember him bringing home an entire set of miniature model cars. It was my birthday and he took the day off just to play with me. Until now, I still have all the cars to remind me of that very special day.—**JP, 17, UP**

When I was little, my dad used to take me to the horror train ride at the amusement park. I was so afraid of the ride, not knowing that my dad always arranged before the train moved for the *mumu* to ride in our coach. It's funny remembering those times.—**Aaron Consul, 18, UST**

Pag naglalaro kami ng arcade, *lalo na pag* Street Fighter.—**Leo Cruz, 16, La Salle Greenhills**

Whenever I get migraine attacks, I can always count on my dad to massage my forehead and palm. I like it when he is there by my side.—**Frances Lorenzo, 20, UA&P**

During my debut, my dad sang three OPM (original Pilipino music) pieces for me. He hates singing, but he did it just for me. It was the icing on the cake of a beautiful birthday celebration. —**Geline, 18, UP**



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4 FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE METRO MANILA AREA the registration fee will still be 200 to be paid on July 10, 2003 provided that the application form is submitted ON OR BEFORE July 4, 2003.

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Young people pay tribute to their main man

favorite moments with DAD

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

HE'S the closest thing you have to Superman. He can be your best friend or your worst enemy. He is one of the few people who can really make you cry. But he's always there for you.

How can you forget the countless times you sought his advice, his attention and his hard-earned dough to pay for your never-ending bills?

2bU! pays tribute to these extraordinary men by asking young people to stroll down memory lane and share their favorite memories of their dads.

Last Christmas, my father knew I wanted to go to a Real Madrid football game. Although he isn't into the sport, he bought tickets for us so we could bond. On the day of the game, we braved jam-packed subway trains, climbed a mad number of stairs, and sat half-toasty (from heaters) and half-soaked (from the rain). He's not a young guy anymore but he did all this with such enthusiasm. I'm very blessed to have him.—**Pilar Estrada, 21, University of Asia and the Pacific**

I remember my dad teaching me how to read when I was a kid. I have vivid memories of him writing words like "cat" and "house" on a yellow pad and putting little illustrations beside each word. He gave me my love of books and words, and now I'm a writer! One day I'm going to write a novel and dedicate it to him.—**Maggie M. Adan, Cosmopolitan Philippines**

When I was little, he'd sing me a song about brushing my teeth to tune of "Row, row your boat."—**Cristina Leviste, 20, De la Salle University**

My dad and I used to wake up every summer morning to do some brisk walking. He is somewhat reticent, and to share those early hours of the day with him was wonderful and important to me. There are days when I walk around our school cam-

FAVORITE/ D3

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cool
stars
stripes
sporty
fashionable
tame
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girls
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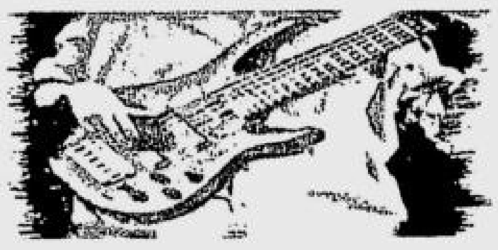
LIFESTYLE 2bU! To be young, to be you!

Bang the drums electronically

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent



MARK it on your calendar. Fete de la Musique opens on Saturday, June 21, 4 p.m. at El Pueblo, Ortigas Center.

Every year, bands are called to celebrate this decades-old tradition that originated in France. The most anticipated event of the annual French Spring in Manila cultural festival, Fete de le Musique has brought together different genres of music every year for a night-long celebration. This year's theme is "One Voice, One World"—and it is the first time that the Fete is celebrated simultaneously around the world. Look out for webcams around the venue that showcase the buzz from other countries.

Here are inklings of what you'll see this Saturday.

New players: Electronica

PHOTOS: RANDY HORMILLOSA

No glowsticks here. Collective Electronica Manila has a mission: To let people know that electronic music isn't all about Ibiza and foam parties. "Call it 'indie electronica' if you will. It's not your typical DJ-Smart thing. It's a do-it-yourself type of music… we use our own instruments," Morse says. "And electronica has many subgenres… people are just quick to label it as 'party music.'"

Silverfilter agrees. "We hope the crowd will be more open to this kind of music. The Philippines is generally more band-oriented."

While most well-applauded DJs are imports, Madz hopes that the locals would be able to recognize the many talented local DJs (and we're not talking about those wannabes with expensive turn tables).

Perks of the job: Being real musicians who came from other bands, these guys don't sample other people's works… they actually make their own music.

"You do it all by machine, and come up with whatever you want," Madz explains. Which means you need to be a real musician to understand what you're doing.

There's another perk other than total creative control: "There's no band to split up, because it's just you and your machine, and *hindi ka sasagutin ng gamit mo kapag-galit ka,*" Wolfmann laughs.

Why they need your support: Electronica wasn't supposed to be at the Fete. It was asked to join only at the last minute. It's hoped that next year, it would get the recognition it deserves.

Don't forget to check out: K-Hon

K-what? If you've been to a gig and seen a wooden box being banged on like there's no tomorrow, well, that's k-hon, a percussion instrument that originated in Latin America that has been used to jazz up many of local bands' sets, such as Imago's and Rivermaya's. Producing such an ethnic and original sound, the instrument was even picked up by the Lotus Eaters and China Crisis during their gigs here.

Why you need to watch them: No one has ever done this in the country before—five percussionists from different bands (Zach Lucero from Imago, Mark Escueta from Rivermaya, Ryan Peralta, Joey Caritas from Bridge and Chavi Romowac from Session Road) will play the instruments.

Want your own? They'll be selling these babies at the Fete, so better be present during their opening at 6:30 p.m.

BANG/E2

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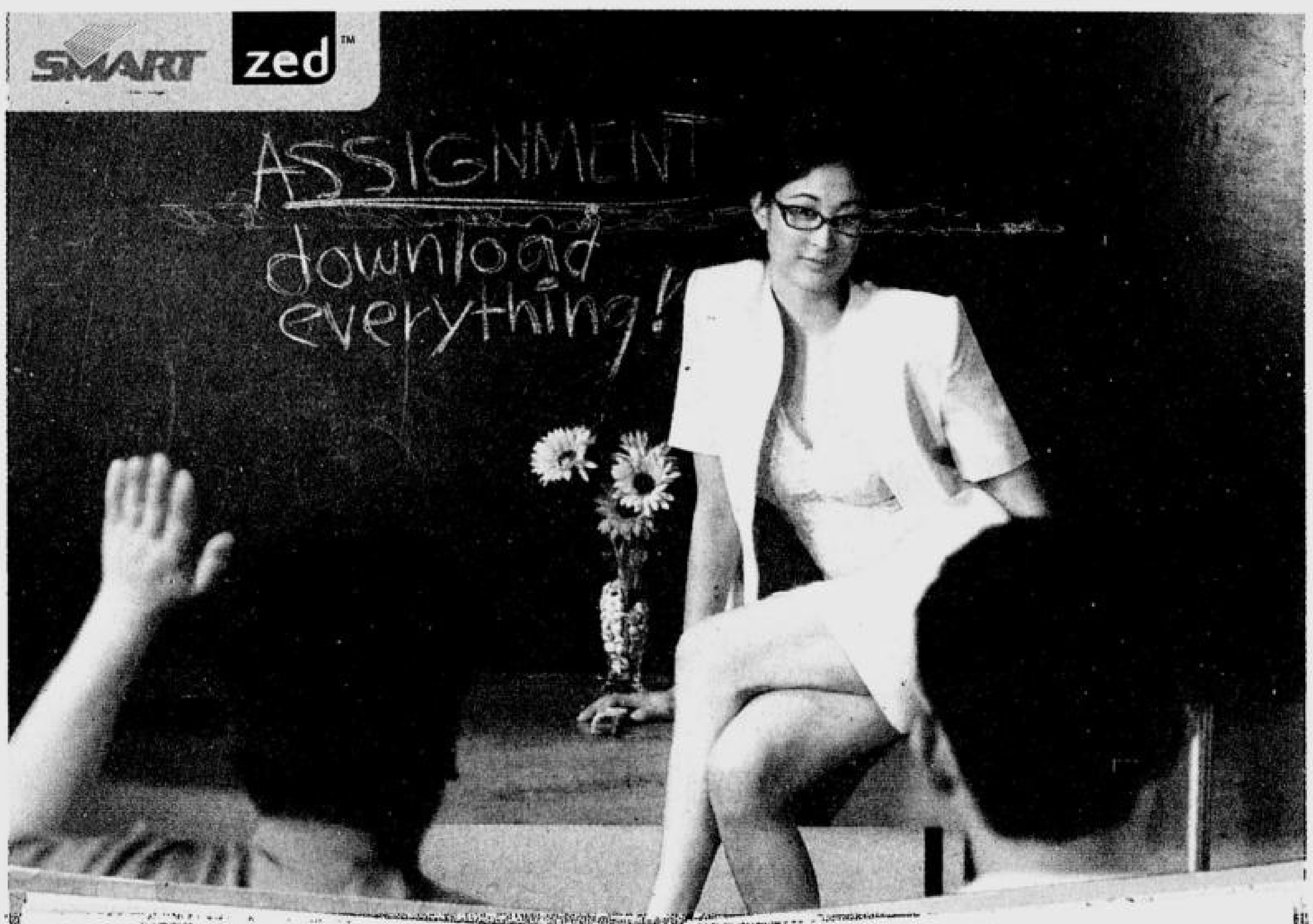

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LOGO BABELOOK
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LOGO THORNS
LOGO SUNSKY
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LOGO ANGELSTAR
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LOGO FOREVER
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PIC BREAKNA
PIC DIOP
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1	American Life	*Madonna*	**TONE AMERICAN**
2	All I Have	*Jenniffer Lopez*	**TONE ALLIHAVE**
3	In Da Club	*50 Cents*	**TONE INDACLUB**
4	Seventeen	*Mandy Moore*	**TONE SEVENTEEN**
5	Forevermore	*Side A*	**TONE 4EVERMORE**
6	Bakit Papa	*Sex Bomb*	**TONE BAKITPAPA**
7	Dilemma	*Nelly*	**TONE DILEMMA**
8	Losing Grip	*Avril Lavinge*	**TONE LOSING**
9	The Real Slim Shady	*Eminem*	**TONE SLIMSHADY**
10	LakLak	*Teeth*	**TONE LAKLAK**

New ring tones:

Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	**TONE BROKEN**
Cant Get You Out of My Head	*Kylie Minogue*	**TONE CATGETU**
One Love	*Blue*	**TONE ONELOVE1**
Times Like These	*Foo Fighters*	**TONE TIMES**
Don't Turn Off The Lights	*Enrique Iglesias*	**TONE TURNOFF**
All My Life	*Foo Fighters*	**TONE ALLMY**
Spaghetti Song	*Sexbomb*	**TONE SPAG**
Lose Yourself	*Eminem*	**TONE LOSEYOUR**
Take A Look Around	*Limp Bizkit*	**TONE TAKEALOOK**
The Space Between	*Ballard/Matthews*	**TONE SPACEBET**

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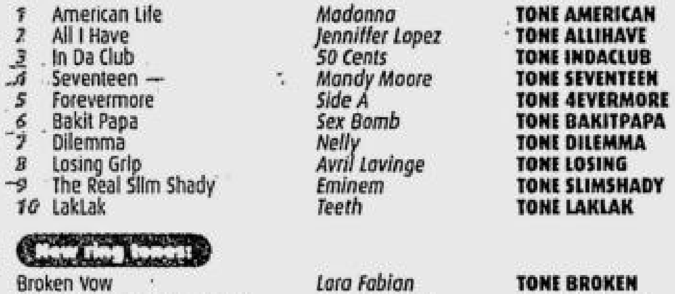

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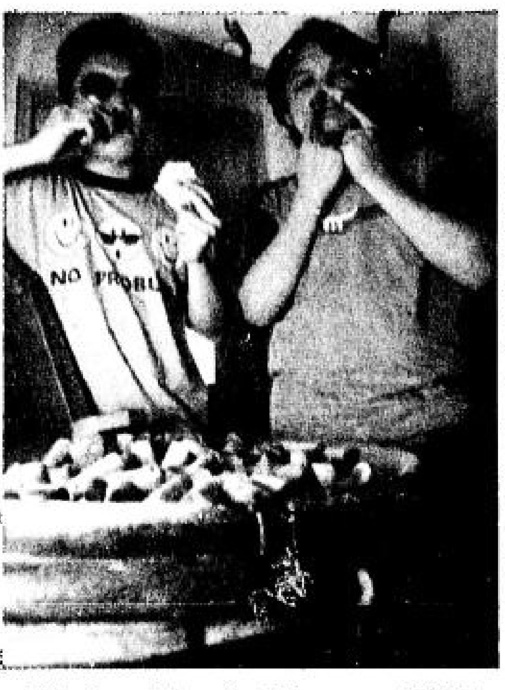
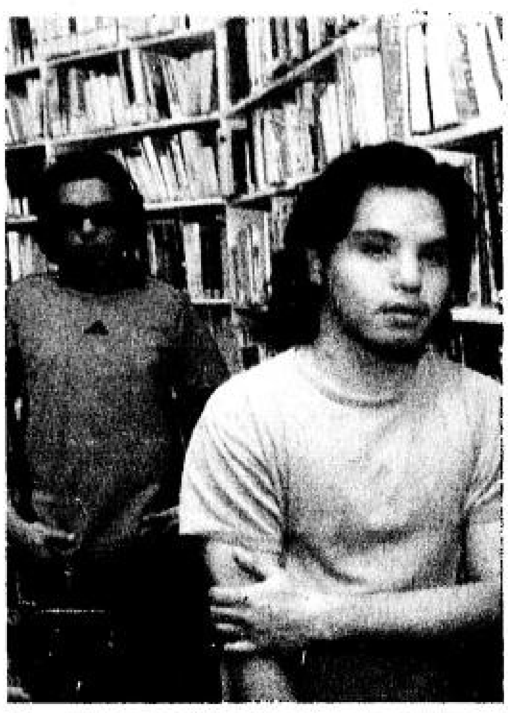


Who hasn't heard of these guys? "We're the bad boys of sissy rock," guitarist Kelvin Yu says. We're not sure if he's joking or not, but vocalist Jugs Jugueta says their second album is "a concept [one]. I don't think we can say the theme yet. But here's a clue: NTS."

Wants to see: Kelvin's quick to say he'd love to see Metallica play the Fete, but would settle for rapper D-Coy (too bad he wasn't invited). Guitarist Chino Singson wishes Urban Dub would still be around for the gig, but looks forward to seeing Loquy.

Murder of Crows



Music, please: The band was formed back in November 1999 to make what Sherwin calls "guitar-driven rock."

"We put a high premium on melodies," Ian says. They've been wowing audiences with their live shows, and their debut album is having its final mix.

Coming next: Watch out for their new single, "Hannah," which will be out next month. And of course, more of drummer/lead vocalist Ria's powerful vocals.

Kapatid

Karl who? Do we need to discuss the line-up of this band?

It's getting hot in here: "It was hot," Chino Molina says of their stint at last year's Fete. "It was uncomfortable." Karl Roy, however, disagrees. "I'm used to playing in small places... it was like being in Club Dredd all over again."

Get the album... so you'll understand what they're talking about. "Last year, our album wasn't out yet," Karl says. "So now my only expectation from this year's Fete is that people get what we're doing onstage."

Would want to see: "A bastardized version of 'Moulin Rouge.'" Karl smiles.

K 24/7

Formerly known as... "Kindred 24/7," these guys met in a family reunion—most of the members are relatives. "That means we don't get to fight that much, because whatever we do, we're relatives, and we can't get rid of each other!" Ruz laughs.

No showband action here: K24/7's debut may have two covers and two remixes done by Squid 9, but Ruz points out that what sets them apart is that they play their own instruments. When asked if they'd want to venture into other genres of music, Ruz says he'd like to get into funk and soul when they get older, and Dylan says he is also into jazz.

Bang the drums electronically

From page E1

From electronic dance music to hip-hop and k-hon instrumentals, this year's Fete de la Musique promises to be jarring, jolting and just right

Sugarfree

Finally! Their debut album, "Sa Wakas," has finally been released by EMI after collecting dust for about a year at another record company.

And now that they've made it, vocalist Ebe Dancel considers playing at the Fete a dream come true. "The fact *na nasa* Fete *ka, panalo ka eh!*"

Sugarfree's second album is slated to be released in February 2004. "We're going back to the studio on October. I have no songs yet. I am so dead."

Looks forward to: Dancel wants to see Electronica perform. "I'd also like to see Urban Dub play... but [they've already flown back to Cebu]."

Mayonnaise

Yet another high school band makes it: Monty Macalino and Martin Rebong did the high school cover-band thing. After drummer Shan was recruited three months ago, the line-up of Mayonnaise was completed. Still in college, the band has already recorded a five-song EP with the help of Rivermaya's Mark Escueta. "It's got a lot of happy songs," Martin says. "I don't want to say praise music, people might come and expect to see a Christian rock band. But it's happy music."

They've played: at hotspots such as the Music Museum, Mayric's, Freedom Bar, and today's musical breeding ground, KAFE. Now they're ready to let people bring their music home, in the form of their EP, which they plan to give out at the Fete.

See Monty... wish F4 is playing. "I watch (F4 of) 'Meteor Garden.' I wish they'd play at the Fete," he jokes.

Kharma

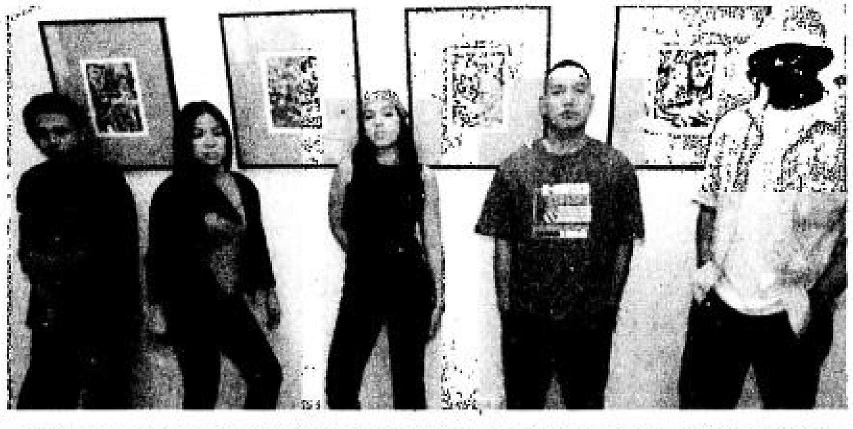
Formed: in May 2002, Kharma is composed of Daniel Crisologo, Joey Flores, Empi Martinez and Walter de Vera. They formed the band when they were students at the College of St. Benilde.

Sounds like: Instrumental rock. "We've got a lot of influences," Daniel says. "We like blues, reggae, a little bit of jazz..."

Get your demos: Their five-song EP, "Infinite Voyage," goes for P180 a pop, and Daniel hopes that it will help people recognize the rock instrumental scene. "I hope people start to appreciate the genre," he says.

Join the list: Sign up at infinite_voyage@yahoogroups.com, or book the band at gig.kharmaband@yahoo.com

7 Shots of Wisdom



What sets them apart: "We make hip-hop, R&B, soulful music," Nathan says. Their debut album, "Lifted," will be followed up by a new release at the end of the month, entitled "The Love and Hate Album."

Different strokes: Philip points out that 7 Shots is also influenced by different genres of music. Kim's looking forward to seeing Kapatid perform ("I saw them in Pampanga, and they're different and nice,"), and PJ's psyched to see Indio-I, while Monique's all revved up to watch Sun Valley Crew.

Sun Valley Crew

Cameos galore: These top 10 hip-hop favorites, who were once nominated for best rap album at the Katha and Awit awards, are ready to release their new album, "SVC: All Natural," which is produced by Raimund Marasigan. Look out for guests Francis M, Mad Poets, DV Clan, Chinese Mafia, Johnny Crush and Raimund Marasigan.

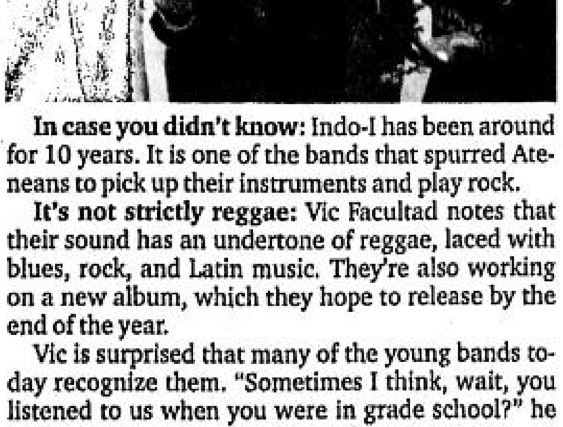
Street Level: RJ says that SVC's music is strictly hip-hop, focusing more on the art form where it originated from." The band hopes to get its music across as "street-level" hip-hop, after fusing the members' influences and styles.

Hellbender

Animal instincts: Guitarist Aldrich Aguilar was watching The Animal Planet when he heard the lizard name "Hellbender" and told his bandmates about it. Born in 2001, Hellbender has played at school fairs, bars, and even at the Rock Against Piracy gig at the Music Museum last year. Not to mention baptisms and debuts. "We played Rolling Stones songs," bassist Paul Yap laughs.

Old school: Aldrich credits "old-school rock bands" such as Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin as their biggest influence. Which isn't a big surprise—drummer Jonathan Rayos is looking forward to seeing Razorback at this year's festival.

Indio-I



In case you didn't know: Indo-I has been around for 10 years. It is one of the bands that spurred Ateneans to pick up their instruments and play rock.

It's not strictly reggae: Vic Facultad notes that their sound has an undertone of reggae, laced with blues, rock, and Latin music. They're also working on a new album, which they hope to release by the end of the year.

Vic is surprised that many of the young bands today recognize them. "Sometimes I think, wait, you listened to us when you were in grade school?" he laughs. He's very much open to the younger generation's music, but is quite picky when it comes to the quality. "I appreciate good stuff. But not just because you're in a 'band.' The chemistry has to be good when you're playing. And you see that when you see the band live." We couldn't agree more.

2003 FETE DE LA MUSIQUE SCHEDULE

Clip this out before you get lost.

WORLD/REGGAE/SKA/LATIN JAZZ
Rack's Parking Lot
TIME ON STAGE
OPENING
7:30-8:00 Hairy Dawgs and La Batterie
8:00-8:15 Bo Razon/Gruppo Ellegua
8:15-8:45 Bo Razon/Gruppo Ellegua
8:50-9:20 Indio I
9:30-10:15 Cynthia Alexander
10:20-10:40 Loquy
10:45-11:30 Spy
11:40-12:00 Juan Isip
12:05-12:50 Pinikpikan
1:00-1:25 Brownbeat all Stars
1:30-1:45 K-hon Jam
1:50-2:30 Makiling Ensemble

JAZZ
San Mig Pub
TIME ON STAGE
OPENING
8:30-9:15 Jazz Friends with Skarlet
9:20-10:05 Innem
10:15-10:45 Fish Trio
10:50-11:20 Brass Munkey
11:30-12:15 Happy People with Ria Osorio
12:20-1:20 Affinity
1:30-2:30 Tots Tolentino and Buhay

ROCK
Chateau Parking Lot
TIME ON STAGE
4:30-4:45 Greyhoundz
4:45-5:00 Monkey Spank
5:00-5:15 Boldstar
5:15-5:30 Bog
5:30-5:45 Hellbender
5:45-6:00 Copper Pop Thrill
6:00-6:15 Murder of Crows
6:15-6:30 Pinwheel
6:30-6:45 Mayonnaise
6:45-7:05 Fatal Posporos
7:05-7:30 Moonstar 88
OPENING
8:30-8:50 Kapatid
8:50-9:05 Dicta License
9:05-9:20 Twisted Halo
9:20-9:35 Happy Meals
9:35-9:55 Bamboo
10:05-10:20 Imago
10:20-10:35 Session Road
10:35-10:55 Cambio
11:05-11:20 Itchyworms
11:20-11:40 Sugarfree
11:40-12:00 Pan
12:10-12:35 Parokya ni Edgar
12:35-1:00 Rivermaya
1:00-1:20 Sandwich
1:20-1:45 Razorback
2:00-2:45 Jun Lopito and the All Star Blues Band

BLUES
Tequila Joe's
TIME ON STAGE
OPENING
8:30-9:15 Jerks
9:20-9:50 Huka
10:00-10:30 Kharma
10:35-11:25 Mr. Crayon
11:35-12:25 Blue Rats
12:30-1:30 Bluesviminda with Cooky Chua
1:40-2:30 Lampano Alley

R&B/HipHop
Side Bar
TIME ON STAGE
OPENING
8:30-11:00 Radha
7 Shots
Sun Valley Crew
Pikaso
Gloc9
Josh Disederio
Phat Bone
Nathan J
11:00-12:00 K/24-7
12:00-2:30 DJ Shorty

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE NEWEST diva trio? Guess again!

THE MAKEOVER team with the author (second from right) and the models

From simple . . .

From page E4

the focus of her makeup look. Gifted with an unmistakably Filipina golden complexion, all Maris had to do was spread on an ample amount of Lancome Illuminateur 03. Also using colors from the Oz Collection, Maris left everything natural but nonetheless striking. Celline's naturally flushed cheeks required only a light dusting of blush. Maris gave her a party-girl pucker that will last from dinner to all-night dancing with a rose-tinged lipstick (Brilliant Magnetic #370) and some Juicy Tubes gloss for luscious shine.

Hair: What's the point of a party if you can't let your hair down? Literally. After adding subtle layers and side-swept fringes to Celline's long mane, Toni & Guy top stylist Nelson Cruz got her into the groove with a modern 'do that combined an uncomplicated sleek style with some flirty Goldilocks curls. Nelson used a flat iron to smoothen the lower layers of Celline's hair, then applied TIGI Bed-Head on the top sections of her hair before wrapping them around a curling iron. Nelson's masterpiece: a head-turning look for gimmick nights when you want to stand out!

Isabel Dulay, 19 ('mestiza')

Isabel betrays first impressions. With a flawless porcelain complexion, big, bright eyes, and sunshine-y smile, you'd be quick to conclude that she's the perfect girl-next-door. And she is—but with a feisty dose of attitude. I wanted none of the typical baby-doll look *mestizas* usually sport, and all of the spunk that made her truly Isabel. I went for a dramatic pop-star (nothing Britney, please) look that was high on the glam factor. Watch as she gives even funky Gwen Stefani a run for her money.

MESTIZAS rejoice! Your milky complexion is the perfect base for vivid, dramatic color.

Makeup: These girls all had young, blemish-free complexions! Highlighting foundation was a hit that day. Illuminateur truly lighted up these girls' faces. After a light dusting of translucent powder, Maris worked on Isabel's eyes, giving her a smoky look. Smoky usually means dull blacks and somber grays, but Maris created dramatic eyes with a twist using Color Focus 216, a plum shadow, and a lighter base for highlighting Isabel's brow-bones and the inner corners of her eyes. Flextencils mascara in black added to the drama. Maris kept cheeks understated with Blush Subtil 03. Smoky eyes called for more natural lips with Rouge Attraction Vibrant Lipstick in an almost nude shade. One word to describe the change: Wow.

Hair: Her dramatic makeup was stunning enough, so Nelson did a simple, minimalist hairstyle on Isabel. After tapering the ends of Isabel's thick, layered mane for a lighter feel and easy-to-control texture, he worked on the lengths with a straightening iron to create a sleek style even rock stars would go for. He made an extreme part over Isabel's right eyebrow for just enough attitude to go with the makeup—and Isabel's scorching stare.

Lancome at Rustan's; Essensuals Toni & Guy located at the 6750 Retail Arcade Ayala Ave., Makati. Call 812-8559/8002/9132.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

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Cereals are made from healthy nutritious grains such as wheat, corn, rice and oats. They are an excellent source of energy to boost your child's mind and body for a busy day in school. One serving of cereals and milk provides at least 25% of the recommended daily allowance for important nutrients like Vitamin C, B1, niacin, folic acid, calcium and iron. This has the great benefits for your child's mental and physical growth.

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Cereals come in many flavors – chocolate, fruit, honey – and in many interesting shapes – stars, balls, fruits...no wonder kids love them! With cereals for breakfast, you no longer need to drag them to the table! It's also a delicious way for your kids to enjoy the benefits of milk in their diet.

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When kids are rushing off for school just pour some cereals into a bowl and add milk. Serving a healthy breakfast can be that easy!

SO GIVE YOUR KIDS NESTLÉ BREAKFAST CEREALS TODAY!
A SMART START FOR SMART KIDS.

From simple to sensational

Vanity Fair

Lora Gabol

Three ordinary girls get glammed up to prove the adage: Beauty is what you make of yourself!

ADMIT it. After hours and hours of reaffirmation exercises (courtesy of The Self-help Network, a.k.a., Oprah) and endlessly chanting "I am fabulous, I am gorgeous," the mere sight of milky-white half-breeds and bronzed Brazilian runway goddesses still manage to rob you of your beauty self-esteem.

"I wish I had Winona's doe eyes." "Why can't I have Kirsten's peaches-and-cream complexion?" "Argh! I'm paler than the entire Addams Family!" Do these sound painfully familiar?

I never said it was easy to just accept your skin color, facial contours, eye shape and gene pool, but I know it is much more difficult to try to fit into another beauty mold.

And that's just it. There is no **one** shape of beauty we can all cram ourselves into. Discover what makes you beautifully, uniquely you and go the extra mile in working with it.

Allow me to make like Dr. Phil and tell you that you are beautiful, just as God made you. Before you dismiss this as another cliché, let me present proof. Three of them, in fact.

I got three real ladies (none of those catwalk veterans, but I wouldn't be surprised if they are now being bombarded with offers), took them to the beauty industry's cream of the crop, and played their beauty cheerleader for the day as they witnessed their own selves metamorphose from hesitant "models" to perfectly polished, confidently sassy camera subjects.

Celline Salapantan, Isabel Dulay and Bing Hao managed to squeeze out nervous smiles for the camera before their diva-licious transformation.

IT TOOK a team of "cheerleaders" to squeeze (nervous) smiles out of models-for-a-day (from top) Bing, Isabel and Celline.

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

Bing Hao, 22 ('chinita')

Whoever coined the phrase "The eyes are the windows to the soul" must have had Bing in mind. Her character simply shines through her eyes. Three-quarters Chinese, her almond-shaped eyes give away her bubbly personality, especially when she smiles. I wanted to play up this distinct feature with color, something Bing hasn't experimented with yet. She has already taken an adventurous step with her looks when she chopped off her long locks into a pixie cut, but I felt a boost of edge was in order.

EXPERIMENT with color on your eyes! A flash of pastel (or even bright green, as seen here) brings out *chinita* charm to the hilt.

Makeup: Lancome makeup guru Maris delos Reyes brought out Bing's playful nature with a whimsical look from Lancome's Oz Collection. Bing's radiant skin didn't need much coverage, so nothing more than a highlighting potion, Lancome Illuminateur 02, was applied to enhance her complexion. Maris dabbed on Blanc Neige 010 on strategic areas of Bing's face for a look of understated glamour that won't quit. Her skin was positively luminous! From previously shying away from color on her lids, Bing trusted Maris as she drew attention to her peepers with a bright green shadow (Color Focus #125) and lots of fab Flextencils mascara for a look that rivals that of Tinkerbell. Her "fantasy" look was completed with just a touch of pink blush and yummy Juicy Tubes gloss on her lips. I thought she looked like a fairy princess!

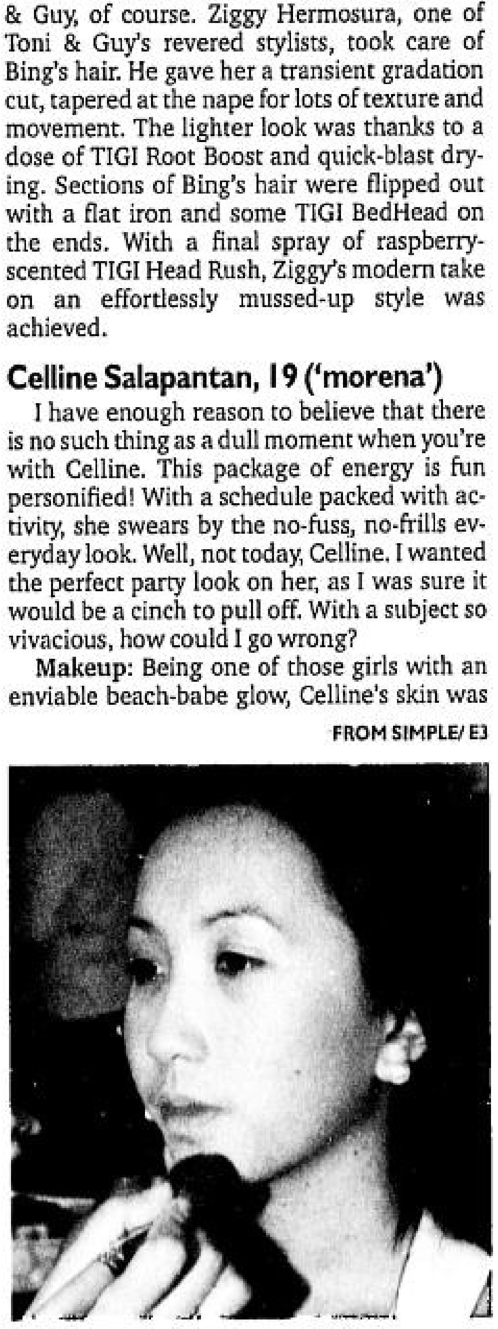
Hair: Where do you run when you want a look that screams subtle funk and edge? Toni & Guy, of course. Ziggy Hermosura, one of Toni & Guy's revered stylists, took care of Bing's hair. He gave her a transient gradation cut, tapered at the nape for lots of texture and movement. The lighter look was thanks to a dose of TIGI Root Boost and quick-blast drying. Sections of Bing's hair were flipped out with a flat iron and some TIGI BedHead on the ends. With a final spray of raspberry-scented TIGI Head Rush, Ziggy's modern take on an effortlessly mussed-up style was achieved.

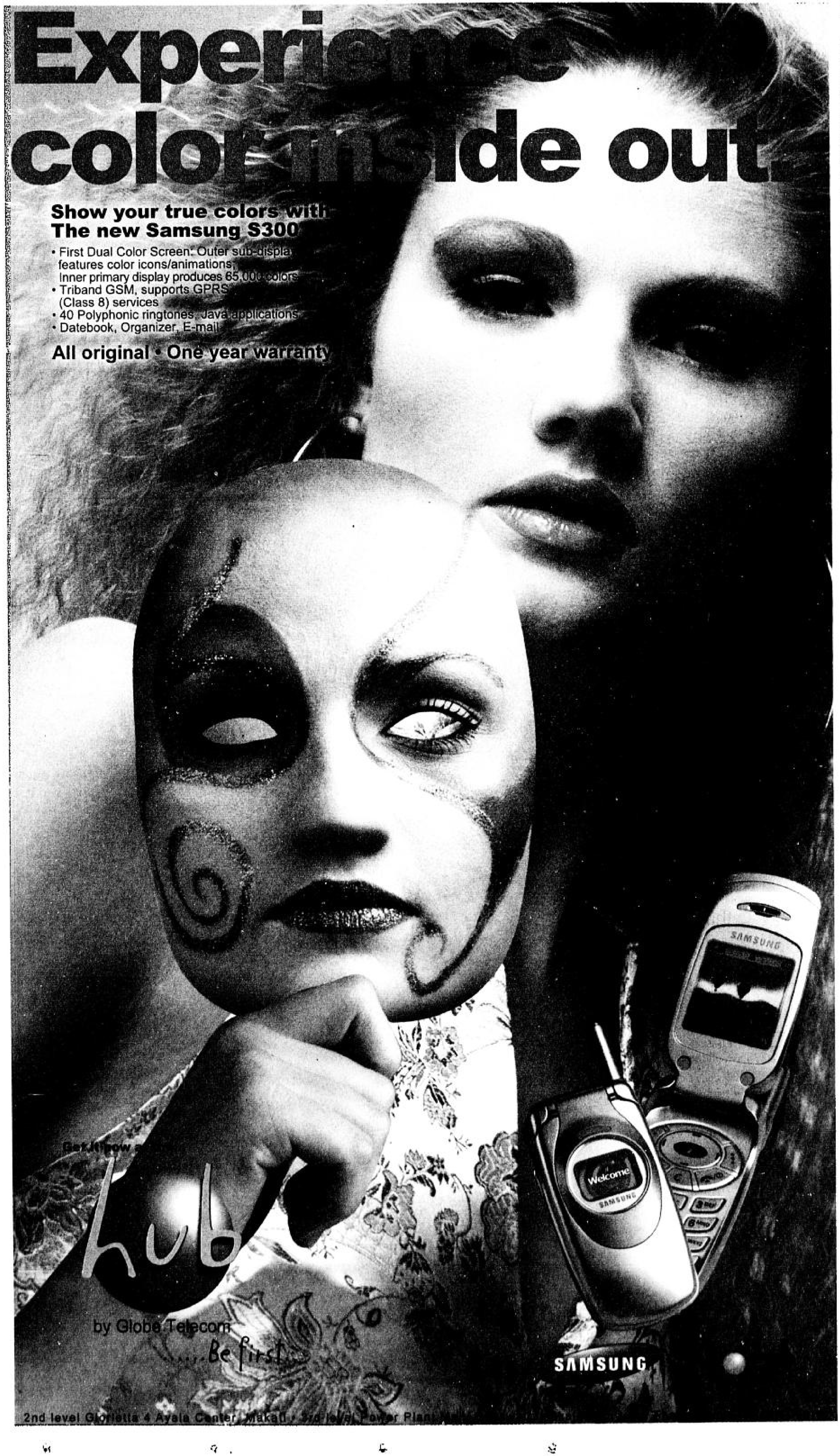
Celline Salapantan, 19 ('morena')

I have enough reason to believe that there is no such thing as a dull moment when you're with Celline. This package of energy is fun personified! With a schedule packed with activity, she swears by the no-fuss, no-frills everyday look. Well, not today, Celline. I wanted the perfect party look on her, as I was sure it would be a cinch to pull off. With a subject so vivacious, how could I go wrong?

Makeup: Being one of those girls with an enviable beach-babe glow, Celline's skin was

FROM SIMPLE/ E3


WHO needs tons of foundation if you've got flawless skin like Celline's?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Letters to dads here and beyond

Whether or not they have been good dads all the time, these kids are still grateful to have them

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To the Reverend

DEAR Daddy,

Well, it's been more than 20 years now. How have you been enjoying our life together? Do I come anywhere near what you dreamed I would turn out to be when you held my 10-pound frame in your arms back then and sang your own version of "The Times of Your Life" (Good morning, Ivy Papa. You wake up … uh, something Cerelac, Gerber, or mashed banana …whatever! You really ought to write down the lyrics some time.)?

So, Dad, did you wish I would stay little forever? How much heartache have I caused you so far? Would I be able to make up for it if I started making amends now? ü

It's pretty hard to describe the kind of relationship that we have. Growing up, I had always resented being a pastor's kid. For me, it meant being judged by the congregation and having to meet other people's expectations of me. I had to be more Christian than the other kids and win every Bible Quiz staged in church and in camp. Let's not even get into the fact that people always expected me to have a voice like an angel's, like it went with the territory of being a PK (pastor's kid). Well, they had always been in for a big disappointment.

I carried the weight of your good name on my shoulder because whatever I did would reflect on you. Not that it ever stopped me from acting up and being an *über* brat though. I now wonder if I ever did anything right as a PK. It must have been one embarrassment after another, huh, Dad? I hope it's not too late to say I'm sorry.

That's just the other people. There was the even more difficult task of abiding by the kind of life you chose which, though undoubtedly the best way to go, was a little too much for an impressionable child. It had been an uphill struggle all the way.

I always say I grew up with a pastor father who lived by the grace and wisdom of God and still does, but I was also surrounded by fools. It was much easier to become a fool like the others, but I wasn't allowed to. Not to say that free will wasn't exercised inour family. Clearly it was or I would have always followed the straight and narrow, but without much depth of understanding.

In college, I had a thorough soul searching that, instead of leading me to the truth, made me stray so far that it took me a long time to find my way back. When I did find it, I discovered that the truth was something I grew up with but refused to accept. All those years I read the doctrines of different religions and philosophies, wanting to find wisdom, the cool kind.

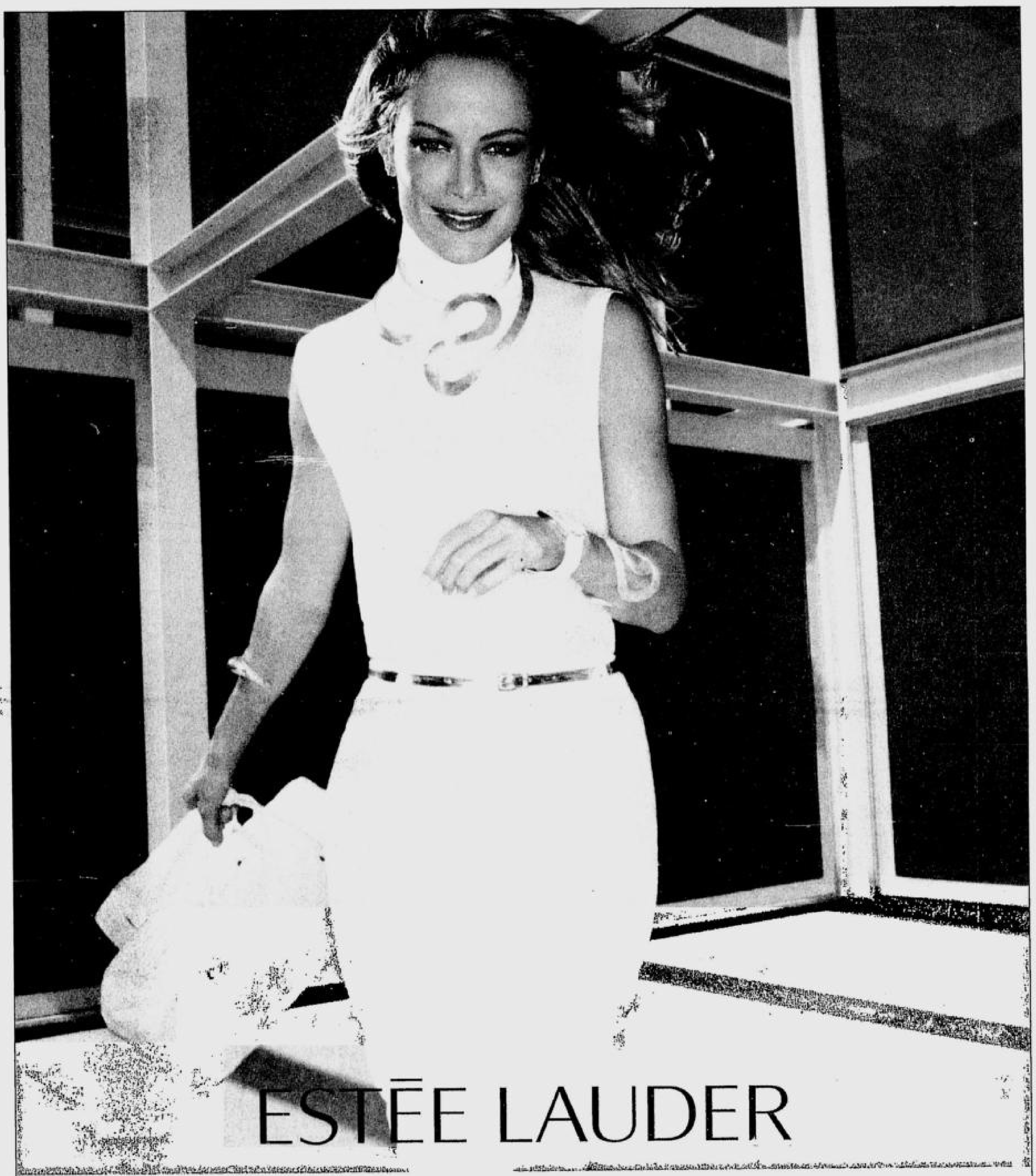
I only went full circle, relearning the Christian principles that you taught us from the very start. I learned that I really didn't need to read Thoreau's "Walden" for I was already living with somebody practicing a higher form of transcendentalism.

I used to say that it's a waste to have regrets because I could always learn from my follies, but I do regret the years of disobedience. I'm not a kid anymore, and I wish that I was able to spend the last years being closer to you and under your influence. Mom told me how painful it was for the two of you to hear me question the existence of God after trying so hard to raise my sister and me to be good Christians. And all along I thought I was being liberal and scholarly!

I'm sorry for the hurt I caused you, and I'm glad that phase is over.

Now, I am even able to appreciate growing up a PK. Instead of the hassle that I thought it was, I see that it had been an extraordinary life with constant blessings, the biggest one being having you as a father. Thank you for being an inspiration and a role model. I now admire your calling and your dedication to your work. I pray that I never be an encumbrance to it again and that I'd be able to help. Thanks for everything, Dad.

Much love,
IVY



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Letters to dads here and beyond

Putting it in print

DEAR Dad,

You're probably going to get the shock of your life when you read this in a national daily... but I can't resist the chance to tell the world how great you've been to us.

Raising three kids was probably very difficult. I know there were a lot of sacrifices that you and mom had to make—putting us in the best schools, being in an exclusive village, and more. I'd like you to know that I appreciate them very much.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I watched as you'd get up early every morning to prepare our breakfasts and *baon*, drive us to school/work, and wait for us to come home in the evening to ask us how our day went. I read somewhere that for a child to grow in the best way possible, she/he didn't need the best that money could buy. All a child needed was to have his/her father (and mother) with him/her as she/he walked through life.

You've been our No. 1 cheerleader and supporter. You've allowed us to make our own decisions, to go out into the world and explore what it holds for us. I remember when I was trying to cook dinner one night, and was painstakingly careful in measuring the condiments, you told me not to be afraid to experiment because that's the only way to learn. I believe that tells a lot about your philosophy in raising us. From you I learned that the world held endless possibilities for us, and if we never tried to reach far, we'd never know how far we could go.

We're all grown-up now... in our 20s, out of college, and in the "real world." Many things have changed, but your guidance has been a constant in our lives. It serves as a rock that anchors us as we expand our horizons. On behalf of Mommy, *ahya* and *achi*, thank you for a lifetime of generosity of spirit and kindness of heart.

We love you. Happy Father's Day!

Love,
LES

Thanks for not forgetting

DEAR Tatay,

So how's your conversations with God lately? I wonder if you two snicker at my silly prayers and misadventures in life. Whatever, I'm glad to know you're looking out for me all the time.

Remember the times when you were already ailing and there would be just you and I in the house? I would sit beside your rocking chair, watched as you gazed at nowhere and thought of God-knows-what.

To start a conversation, I would blurt out a question that would sometimes annoy if not amuse you. I'd ask you what your children's names were. You'd first give me the "Where in the world did that question come from" look but then, after some cajoling, you would raise your fingers, begin counting and naming my half siblings.

You see, since I didn't really know how it was to be 80 and forgetful, I worried that you might just wake up one day not knowing me.

I would hold my breath as I waited for you to mention my name and heaved a sigh of relief when you said, as you reached seven, "*Ikaw.*" Good, I'd tell myself. It was always good to be reassured that you still knew me. That despite your odd toilet habits and sense of time and direction, you still remembered who I was in your life. I was your youngest, the baby you took good care of even if you were old enough to need some caring yourself.

And thanks for picking me up on your bike from elementary school, thanks for letting me sleep in your soft and warm bed, thanks for not doubting me. I just knew you understood the things I felt I had to do then.

Thanks for all that and more, 'Tay.

Life was difficult then. My dreams for us were never realized but then, hey, look who's in a better place now? Here's to our meeting again, soon!

Remembering your efforts,
ARLENE

Gone but not forgotten

PARE,

I just want to greet you a very belated Happy Father's Day. Thanks for being a dad of sorts to me back when I was supposedly dad-less. You were always the grooviest grandpa, and I miss all those Sundays when you'd drag me to church and make things better by letting me devour endless sticks of barbecue then buying me art supplies afterwards.

I miss all those Saturday nights when I'd wait for you till 12 midnight. You always had plastic bags full of my favorite goodies: ice cream, instant *leche flan*, barbecue and chips. I miss those nights when, while watching boxing matches on television, I'd massage your head (much to my annoyance) till you fell asleep (much to my delight, because it meant I could go switch to FTV).

I also miss all your stories, especially about that bastard son of your *kumpare* who had a nice wife who won in a Magsaysay essay-writing contest. You told me that story again and again and again.

Well, here I am now writing for the greatest daily in the country. I wish you could have read at least one of my articles. I know you would have been very proud, even if I usually write about homosexuality and music videos, stuff you'd rather not hear about.

I hope heaven has a subscription to INQUIRER, so you can make merciless comments on my shallowness and rant about how sissy-like I look in my picture.

Thanks, *pare*. I always believed that you're my guardian angel of sorts when it came to writing. The one who guided me on my trips, provided me synonyms, melted the mental block, whispered "*Si* Mark Sablan *ang ipadala mo sa* Boracay," to the chief of correspondents.

I remember one of your daughters telling me that although you went into business, you always wanted to be a journalist, but had to follow the wishes of your parents. I probably wouldn't have done the same. I'm pretty happy to be doing what I love and, to be somehow doing it for you. I hope you're happy.

We miss you terribly. Don't worry, we'll once again pour beer on your grave when we visit. Favor. *Bulungan mo naman yung* chief of correspondents *na ipadala ako sa* Sweden. Thanks.

MARK

Welcome back, Papa

PAPA,

I know you know I used to hate you with a passion. I loathed you for being young and immature. I especially abhorred you because you left my mother. You left me and my brother and my sister. I was deeply angry with you for being absent when I knew you were just around indulging in substance abuse and having the grandest time of you life with your friends, instead of feeding your family.

You should have been there to pay the bills, comfort my mother when she was going nuts trying to make ends meet. You should have been with us when we were celebrating our birthdays, when we were going onstage for our gold medals and when we were being bullied by the neighborhood jerks. You simply should have been there. But you weren't.

But now you are here and that is what matters. The woman who used to be your wife may now be happy in the arms of someone else, but your kids are still here, and we're very grateful that somehow, we're together again. I'm glad you've finally become the father we always wanted and needed. What you're earning may not be sufficient, but we appreciate each and every centavo you hand us. Your work may take you away from us from time to time, but it makes us treasure every moment we spend together.

You were gone for so long; I don't want you leaving anytime soon.

You had the chance to teach me my XYZ's and my 1 to 11's, my secondary colors and my polygons, but I couldn't recall a moment when you actually shared with me the basics. However, I've learned some of life's most valuable lessons because of you.

I've learned how to forgive. I've learned how to give second chances and realized that doing so could be beneficial to me and the people around me. With mama clouds away, I wonder how empty my life would have been if I didn't forgive you. Undeniably, I am thankful and very happy I have you in my life, even if I don't tell you or it doesn't show sometimes.

I've also learned that most of us have only one father, and that we are somehow left with no choice but to love and take care of them. No matter if they are absent, irresponsible or cold sometimes, they are the only ones who have that role in our lives. Why deprive yourself of a father when you have one? Some people out there are unfortunate not to have a father at all.

Well, belated happy Father's Day. I love you very much. Sorry if I don't get to say it aloud. Sorry if we're still a little awkward with one another sometimes. I'm really doing my best, and I hope sometime soon, we'll be like those father-son tandems on cheesy TV programs. Sorry, I guess I'll never be the great guitarist or basketball player you are. But I did get your great voice and good looks. That's more than enough, I guess.

Thanks for coming back. Please don't leave us again. I promise never to leave you. I may go visit mama in the US sometime, but I'll never desert you and live there and go blonde. For you, I shall go straight and get married and have kids. And never leave you.

Thanks for coming back. Better late than never.

NIÑO

LEE Mingwei—first male to become pregnant. Visit www.malepregnancy.com for more details.

'Ang tatay kong nanay'

BEVERLY with her dad, Benito Ho

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

CAN FATHERS make good mothers? Yes, say three young women raised by their fathers.

Beverly Ho, 19, is a B.S. Biology junior at UP Diliman. She wants to take up medicine later to follow in the footsteps of her mom, an obstetrician-gynecologist.

Because her mom has to spend nights at the hospital to deliver babies, her dad, a businessman, has played a bigger role in the parenting department.

Bev recounts the time when she and her siblings were younger. Her dad would wake them up at 4 a.m. to let them drink warm milk that he had prepared himself. An hour later, he'd feed them soft-boiled eggs that he had also cooked. While they ate breakfast, he would heat up the bath water and later pack their "*baon*" and vitamins.

"Now in college," Bev muses, "it's almost the same thing, just minus the soft-boiled eggs!"

Having her dad play such a dominant role in her life has its ups and downs. "Basically, I couldn't tell him about girl stuff," Bev says. "He's also very particular when it comes to being on time, and it usually takes me a long time to dress up. Also, he likes listening to the news while I prefer music when we're in the car."

From her dad, Bev says that she has learned the value of selflessness and frugality. "He's thrifty when it comes to himself, but buys us what we need, even if it may sometimes be expensive. I've come to realize how much dads can really do, that they can be breadwinners and be loving parents as well, contrary to stereotypical father images."

She adds: "A saying in Chinese says that the greatest love is the one that comes from a mom. Well from me, it's from both parents. My dad has proven this."

Dad #2

Jessica "Icca" Gandionco, 19, is another B.S. Biology junior at UP Diliman. Her dad raised her and her sister Barbie by himself since 2000 when her mom had to go to the US.

"He's like the cooler mom," Icca says. Her dad had to learn how to cook. He also had to listen to all of her stories about everything under the sun. "For those who know me, it takes a lot of patience to do that."

He also worries twice as much now, since only he knows what happens to Icca and Barbie every day.

Without their mom around, the two sisters had to be in charge of cleaning the house. They also had the garden to tend to, but since only their mom has the green thumb, the plants don't look as healthy.

Icca recalls, "I tried cooking *adobo* once, but it wasn't as good as Mommy's. We don't get a lot of stuff done, and it always seems that there's not enough time. It really makes one wonder just how mommies do it, especially my Mommy."

The best thing about having her dad raise them? "He doesn't wake us up early. Every day is a memorable experience with him. And now that Mommy's not here, Daddy is able to get me stuff I like. Mommy usually stops him from doing so since I'm sort of a *basurera*; I like getting useless things. But I sometimes miss Mommy's nagging. I now see the importance of all the things I used to hate as part of being responsible and independent."

Icca believes that these days, children can get the best of both worlds since both parents are able to raise them. Before, mothers raised the children while fathers worked all the time. Nowadays, since both parents work, there may be less time for the kids, but there is greater interaction between kids and parents. "It's like quality over quantity, which I think is better," Icca says.

Men can become good mothers to daughters who love shopping, makeup and other 'girly' stuff

KAT, with her dad, Eliseo Yu

Dad #3

At 20, Ateneo de Manila junior Katherine Yu knows a lot about what it's like to be raised by one parent. After her mom died when she was 10, her dad took care of them and tried his best to be both a father and a mother.

Kat recalls that when she and her siblings were sick, her dad would accompany them to the doctor. He had his own medical kit. They would go to the grocery together and buy feminine products. He would also be their fashion consultant, giving his views on whether the outfits looked good on them or not. He cooked and cleaned the house.

Kat says that she and her dad do not agree on certain things. "Well, I guess in the clothing department, he doesn't quite understand that certain types of clothing are not *bagay* to us," she says. "He doesn't get why we needed to put on at least a little makeup for graduation. He also doesn't get it why it takes us so long to choose what to wear."

Through these gender-based differences also lie great advantages. "[It's great to get] a man's perspective all the time. It has helped me a lot in understanding my brother, male cousins and friends. I've become more sensitive to what they're feeling and what they're thinking."

Kat knows that her dad has played a big role in who she is now. "I guess I have matured quite fast. I became very independent. I learned how to fend for myself, to take care of myself. I also have the same attitude about work, discipline, and perseverance. I became more fearless. *Malakas ang loob ko.*

"My dad [has also] helped me set ideals for myself, especially when it comes to commitments. He's a very responsible guy. And through the discipline and hard work I've seen in him, I can't help wanting to be like him."

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

Feeling guilty for being off the wagon after 3 years

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Mark,

I was a heavy drinker in my freshman year, but after several drinking sessions, I promised never to touch any alcoholic drink again, especially tequila. For three years I stuck to my resolve.

Last week, though, my resolution was broken when college friends and I had a semi-reunion. I drank five shots of tequila and got drunk. I've felt guilty ever since because if I could easily break a 3-year-old resolution, how much more my other resolutions? I find it hard to trust myself right now.

Do you think I'm overreacting or do I have reason to worry? Most of my friends say I'm exaggerating, but my confidence has really been affected by what happened. How do I resolve this?

JU

I know that 1,095 days without a drop of alcohol is a mighty, mighty feat that calls for a drunken celebration (or maybe a buffet). And suddenly throwing away all those days of extreme self-control because of some irresistible cheap tequila generates guilt feelings.

But, dude, you should learn to forgive yourself. Puh-leeze don't be a drama king and wallow in self-pity and let yourself be driven to reunite with the bottle. Simply ignore the itsy-bitsy mistake and move on with your life.

If after five shots and your short stint as Mr. Disco, you still passionately feel as if alcohol is the enemy, then do not be a worry worm. Everything will be all right as long as you know deep within your intestines that you will not let the incident happen again.

Your confidence is obviously low after the incident. You are so affected, you can't even trust yourself anymore. But remember that the little, forgivable slip was the first after 1,095 days of abstinence.

Your other resolutions have nothing to do with alcohol's allure. I say, forget the forgettable incident and drink Milk Magic or Dalandan Soda while listening to Manilyn Reynes' "Mr. Disco."

MARK

You and I and just about the rest of the world are in the same leaky boat, Ju. Like you, I've broken more promises than I care to count, from going vegetarian to keeping my ATM account at above-minimum balance. Sadly, good intentions don't always result in jobs that are well-done.

I have to say you're the only one who can decide whether or not you're overreacting to what happened (for the record, I think you are).

Your friends' opinions can also be an indication of how seriously you should take this matter. But, since they are your friends, it's possible that their thinking is biased, especially since they used to be your drinking buddies.

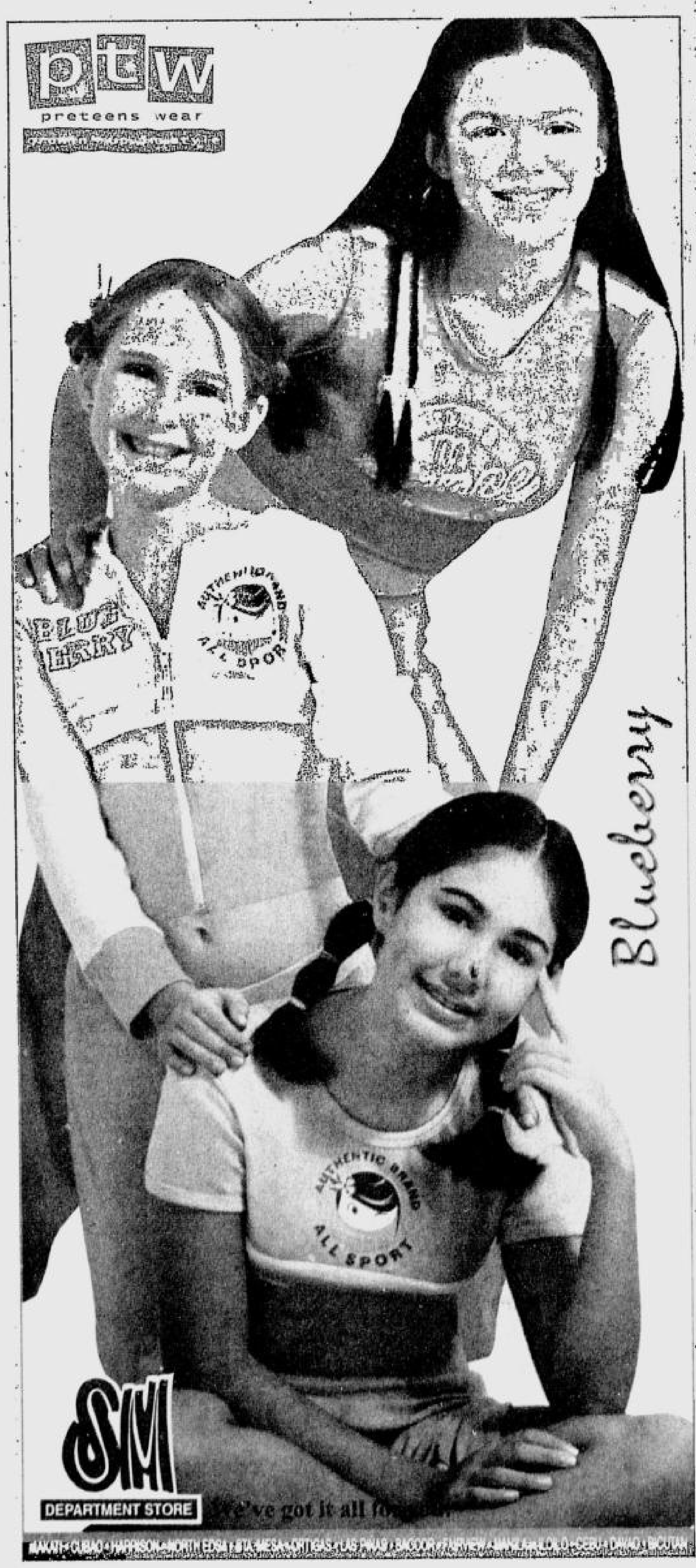
I suggest you think back to the time when you made the promise never to drink again. If you can recall your reasons for making such a resolution, then it might make it easier for you to make peace with yourself and stop feeling guilty.

But in my opinion, the guilt trip has to stop. It is never a productive way of resolving an issue.

Summon a brand-new sense of determination to do better next time. Focus on the evidence of your strong will power—three alcohol-free years—instead of that one drunken night. Then you can learn to trust yourself again and exceed what you've already done before you had this little (excusable) fall.

SEP

E-mail the authors at markandsep@yahoo.com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